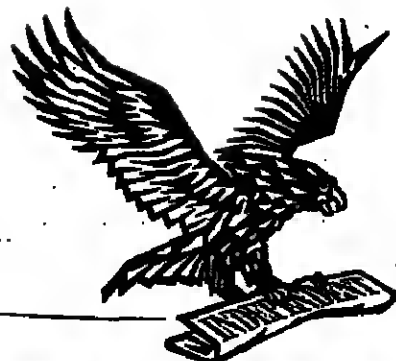


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# THE INDEPENDENT

3,001

FRIDAY 31 MAY 1996

WEATHER Sunny spells and showers 40p (UK 45p)

## Too many fishers on the sea

By John Lichfield and Donald Macintyre

Sharp cuts in the British fishing fleet proposed by Brussels are the product of 13 years of double-talk by British ministers, promising cuts in capacity which never materialised. Despite the bluster of the Government yesterday, the fact is the UK fishing fleet has steadily grown for most of the 13 years of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – despite pledges of cuts and conservation made by British ministers.

The growth has little to do with foreign fishing vessels sailing under British flags – the so-called "quota

hoppers" – most of which have existed for many years. It has much to do with Government policy, which has restricted British fishermen from claiming generous subsidies from Brussels for paying off old vessels.

The impression in this country is that our fishing fleet has been decimated by unfair competition from foreign vessels and by the collapse of fishing stocks. In reality, despite a decline in fish stocks, the number of British boats, and the catching power of the active British fleet, has increased since the CFP was agreed in

1983. Judged on boat numbers alone, the fleet of larger, sea-going British boats (more than 10 metres) has increased by a third. Smaller, inshore boats has increased by two thirds. Over the last nine years, Britain has done less than any other country, except the Netherlands, to meet unanimously agreed European targets for reducing boat numbers. In the period 1987-91, the Government agreed to an EU-wide programme of cuts which would have reduced the capacity of the UK fleet by nearly 7 per cent. In fact, according to EU figures,

its tonnage and horsepower grew by three per cent.

The Government yesterday roundly dismissed the European Commission's call for cuts of up to 40 per cent in the UK fleet over the next seven years. Tony Baldry, the fisheries minister, secured all-party support when he issued a blunt counter-demand for the outlawing of "quota hoppers" – foreign-owned British boats taking part of the UK catch. But Brussels officials said their proposal – which would reduce all EU fleets – was in line with long-agreed policy to reduce

catching capacity and preserve what remains of hard-pressed fish stocks.

The Commission accepts "quota hopping" is a serious problem for the Government. Brussels also acknowledges that it makes a nonsense of the principle of national fishing quotas. Foreign-owned boats, mostly Spanish and Dutch, take over 40 per cent of British quotas for hake and plaice.

Brussels sources say Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino encouraged the Government last year to suggest a way of protecting British quotas which would not infringe En-

ropean law. The Government has failed to respond formally so far.

One reason for the failure to pay off older British boats was the reluctance of the Government to participate in an EU de-commissioning scheme. Seventy per cent of the cash would have come from Brussels. The Treasury opposed full-scale participation on the grounds that payments to UK fishermen would have reduced Britain's annual "cash rebate" from the EU and upset public spending calculations. At the same time, some UK fishermen have been taking advantage

of loose British licensing regulations to "trade up" to larger boats.

In the last five years, a limited use of the EU cash has been allowed and some net reductions have been made in the British fleet but nowhere near the targets agreed. The Netherlands is an even bigger offender. By contrast, Spain, the usual fish whipping boy, has cut its fleet by five per cent more than the EU required. Hence the need – according to Brussels – for the British and the Dutch fleets to be reduced more sharply than others over the next six years.



All at sea: The number of British fishing boats has increased despite a unanimous European agreement to reduce the fleets

## Industrial trawling empties the oceans

JOJO MOYES

The big truth behind this week's war of words over European fisheries policy is that the oceans are being emptied of life by industrial fishing. Over the past few decades, a revolution in fishing techniques and the growth of the world population have caused a dramatic slump in fish stocks. It is a story which starts with Britain and the North Sea.

From Roman times until the early years of this century, the seas around Britain were famous for their rich abundance of sea life. But even when the industrial revolution began to create a mass market for fish,

stocks remained relatively stable. This was not because of conservation but incompetence; fishing methods stayed remarkably similar from medieval times until well into this century. And on land, transport difficulties meant that for centuries fish only tended to reach much of the population after it was dried or salted.

The precursor to the modern chippy – Simpson's Fish Ordinary, a "fish and chip shop" – existed as early as 1723. But it was the arrival in Britain of commercial refrigeration in 1861, together with rapid urbanisation, that both created an appetite for cheap protein and provided the means to satisfy it.

"We like to think fish was the first protein-based fast food," said Arthur Parrington, general secretary of the National Federation of Fish Friers. "Sellers would fry it and peddle it on the streets. Dickens even made references to fried fish warehouses in Oliver Twist."

Fish was nutritious, cheap, and gradually became easily available. In the recession of the 1930s there were 50,000 fish and chip outlets (today there are 8,500). Known as "pin money" shops, they were run by housewives from the front of their homes.

But despite the increasing demand, fish stocks didn't drop dramatically, partly because of

the temporary removal of trawlers from the seas during the First and Second World Wars. There seemed to be no reason to believe that the oceans would be anything but the source of an eternal harvest.

Then in the 1950s, the tide turned, chiefly because it became profitable to catch fish for industrial products – oils, fishmeal, fertiliser and animal feed. Freecar trawlers which could gut and freeze huge quantities of fish on board were introduced. Technology-based industrial fishing was born.

Thirty years on, satellites enable trawlers to predict the weather and sonar pinpoint shoals of fish. Huge nets hover

them up; in some parts of the world, these are 50 miles long, with openings that could accommodate 16 jumbo jets.

The results have been dramatic. From the turn of the century the world's fish catch grew nearly 20 times over. But it fell sharply in 1990 and has not recovered. Today, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports that every one of the world's major fishing areas has either crashed or exceeded its natural limits – and that nine of them are in serious decline.

The North Sea, once one of the world's richest marine areas, has been savagely affected. Every year, the industry sucks up more than half of the cod and haddock left there. Nearly three-quarters of young cod are caught before they have even started to mature. The stock of mackerel has crashed fifty-fold since the 60s, and fishing for herring had to be stopped altogether from 1977 to 1982.

Pollution and the destruction of wetlands – where fish breed – have made things worse. Sales of fish keep increasing, aided by consumer concerns about health and scares such as the beef crisis. But the stocks are running down, as boats move into new areas, fish new species and compete ever more fiercely. Tempters are rising. And so, inevitably, are prices.

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## The irresistible rise of Bibi

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

In the early hours of yesterday morning, he was being written-off. "Netanyahu, imprisoned by a sense of his own charisma, fell into a well and caused the collapse of the Likud [party]," wrote one of Israel's better-known newspaper columnists.

By the time that newspaper appeared in print it had all changed. Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu looked set to become the next prime minister of Israel, if only by a whisker. His lead is 20,000 votes out of 3.9 million cast, but the 154,000 votes still to be counted are mostly those of soldiers expected to vote for the right.

Just for a moment, as the first exit polls were announced – giving the lead to Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister – Mr Netanyahu's easy self-confidence evaporated and his face turned white. But he has survived crises before, such as when Leah Rabin, the widow of murdered prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, denounced him after her husband's funeral. There was talk of replacing him as party leader when his rating in the polls fell 20 per cent behind Mr Peres late last year.



Victory celebrations: Likud supporters lift a poster of Mr Netanyahu Photograph: Reuters

Yet there is something unstoppable about this man. In 1993, he appeared on television to admit that he had had an affair with political opponents were trying to blackmail him by threatening to release a video showing him in a compromising position with his girlfriend.

Yet despite this, despite three marriages, it was the black-battled ultra-Orthodox Jews who flocked to the polls this

week to give him victory. He was damaged by the assassination of Mr Rabin and accused of rabble-rousing speeches before the murder: but he rebounded in the polls after four suicide bombs exploded in February and March in Israel killing 63 people.

He has had little help in this election. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the PLO, gave such assistance to his opponent as he

could. President Bill Clinton all but campaigned against Mr Netanyahu. The Israeli media regards him with suspicion and distaste. Above all else, his success will cause dismay because nobody knows if he is a committed ideologue or a successful opportunist.

Certainly, his family background is one of ideological commitment. He is the son of Benzion Netanyahu, an histo-

rian whose commitment to extreme right-wing Zionism forced him to leave Israel for a job in the United States. He became a senior diplomat in Washington and New York, famed for his facility on television in Hebrew or English, known for his links to America's conservative right.

What will Mr Netanyahu do now? He will not withdraw from Hebron, or discuss Jerusalem with the Palestinians, as agreed under the Oslo accords. He says he will build more settlements on the West Bank. The peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, which began in 1993, are effectively over. He says he will not give up the Golan Heights.

But he is unlikely to do more unless there are more suicide bombs. He will have little difficulty forming a government because of the success of the right in the Knesset. He will want to restore relations between himself and the US. But the hunt truth is that – as would be the case were it Mr Peres who had triumphed – Mr Netanyahu will find it difficult to do anything in a country that is so demonstrably split down the middle.

Knife-edge vote, pages 14,15

### QUICKLY

**Thornton walks free**  
Sara Thornton walked free from court yesterday after a jury found her not guilty of murdering her alcoholic husband Malcolm but convicted her of manslaughter. Page 3

**Road-rage shooting**  
A motorist has been shot dead in what is believed to be the second "road rage" murder in eight days. The attack, in which one man died and another was shot in the face, followed a minor collision. Page 2

**Dunblane ordeal**  
The emotional ordeal suffered by parents of children who died in the massacre at Dunblane was revealed yesterday when an inquiry was told some parents only learned they had lost their child six hours after the shooting had taken place. Page 4

**Extra hour's drinking**  
Drinkers could be given an extra hour to drink up in pubs and clubs over weekends by the end of the summer if new Home Office proposals go ahead. Page 5



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## news

## Man dies in 'road rage' shooting

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

A motorist has been shot dead in what is believed to be the second "road rage" murder in eight days.

The attack, in which one man died and another was shot in the face, followed a high speed chase which is believed to have been prompted by a minor accident in which two cars bumped into each other in north London.

The murder comes shortly after the stabbing to death of Stephen Cameron, 21, who was killed during an argument with

a motorist on a sliproad of the M25 junction at Swanley, Kent, on 19 May. There is increasing concern about road rage, in which frustrated motorists go berserk and strike out.

In the latest incident the killer is believed to have waved a gun from the window of his car as he chased three men in their vehicle for about a mile.

At first the police believed the incident, which happened at about 11pm on Monday, was most likely a drugs shooting, but after interviewing witnesses they now think it was inspired by road rage.

The case began after a minor collision at a junction of Seven Sisters Road and Woodberry Grove, Haringey between a red Mitsubishi car and a "sports type" car. The Mitsubishi suffered slight damage. Witnesses said that the three men in the Mitsubishi failed to stop.

The second car gave chase and began waving what was described as a "stick" out of the window - police believe this was probably a gun.

The Mitsubishi driver fled at high speed and, believing that the pursuer had been shaken off, parked in nearby Surrey

Gardens, Manor House, north London. But the three men, all of whom were born in Ghana, were then confronted by a white man who entered the street on foot after parking around the corner. An argument began about the damage to the white man's car.

The man produced a handgun from his pocket or waistband and shot one of the car's two passengers - a 41-year-old man - in the chest.

He then shot a second passenger twice in the head. The 35-year-old victim, a Ghanaian holidaymaker, died instantly.

The Mitsubishi driver was also threatened by the gunman, but he ran away and managed to escape into open land.

The injured passenger was treated in hospital and released the following day.

The gunman is described as white, in his mid-thirties, about 5ft 10in tall and well-built. He spoke with a London accent.

Sandy Myles, 47, was in his home nearby at the time of the shooting. He said: "I looked out and saw a group of men shouting and yelling. It was one huge row."

"After looking out the front door I dialled 999. The argument then shifted to the other end of the road and I could see there were 10, maybe more, people involved."

"As I opened the front door I heard one gunshot. I slammed the door shut, then rang the police again and as I was doing so there were another two shots."

Police are appealing for witnesses and are keen to establish the make and model of the vehicle involved.

The police are continuing their search for the killer of Stephen Cameron.

## Sinn Fein rolls in to the polls with money and men

If manpower and methodical organisation are the keys to success in elections, then in west Belfast at least Sinn Fein are set to do well in the Northern Ireland poll.

Outside polling stations in the republican heartlands of Ballymurphy and Springfield little caravans containing two or three Sinn Fein workers. Many voters made their way to them before going into the polling stations, standing in a queue to hand in their voting cards.

Inside the caravans Sinn Fein workers had large pieces of cardboard with voting registers sellotaped to them, street by street. As the people handed in their cards their addresses were found in Glenalina Park, Britton's Parade and Ballymurphy Crescent, and carefully underlined. Other mysterious marks were added with a green highlighter.

The caravans, festooned with posters, pictures of Gerry Adams and tricolour flags, provided a splash of colour on a dull, wet day. But security precautions were in evidence too: the registration numbers were covered up with black bin-bags.

Up in Andersonstown came the media event of the day as

David McKitterick follows the election trail in west Belfast

Gerry Adams arrived to cast his vote at Holy Child primary school. Locals craned their necks for a glimpse, but he was engulfed in a scrum of American, European and Japanese camera crews. If he said anything of significance in the scrum he said it to America, Europe and Japan, not to Belfast.

Across the precinct in Protestant Ballygomartin, a middle-aged woman emerged from Forth River primary school complaining of the long list of Unionist parties on the ballot paper. "Talk about confusing in there," she shook her head. "Progressive Unionists, Ulster Unionists and all the rest - I knew beforehand who I wanted to vote for but still it was confusing. When I saw that big list I was thrown a bit."

Here there are no caravans and fewer workers. There are two men from the new Ulster Democratic Party dressed, oddly, in identical dark green dou-



Making a mark A voter and his son in the Springfield Road area of west Belfast yesterday Photograph: Brian Harris

ble-breasted suits, and a small bouncy woman from the Progressive Unionist Party, which is said, in the latest journalistic euphemism, to be familiar to the thinking of the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force.

She turned out to be Tracy Gould, an executive member of the DUP. "We need your vote to get us round the table," she tells

those on their way into the polling station. What makes her think talks would work? "Because I think the smaller parties like us are more realistic about what we need to do. We need to respect each other's culture - gone are the days of the old Stormont and the old power base, the Protestant superiority."

Half a mile away in Woodvale heads turned at another polling station as bagpipe music was heard. A car with an excellent loudspeaker system zoomed round the corner, pulled up at the station and out jumped the Rev Eric Smyth, the Paisleyite lord mayor of Belfast. He helped out an elderly man and then zoomed off again in another jaunty skirl of pipes.

Some DUP people shook their heads in wonder as they heard of Sinn Fein's level of organisation. "I suppose we'd be organised too if we had a million dollars from America," one woman said ruefully, contemplating her handful of leaflets, damp from the Belfast drizzle.

## Hurd rounds on the Tory Euro-sceptics

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, last night issued a sharp warning to senior Tory Euro-sceptics that their goal of subordinating European law to national law "in all circumstances" would mean saying "goodbye to the single market".

In a further sign of a fight-back by pro-European Tories,

Mr Hurd combined another withering onslaught on the prejudice of nationalist newspapers with a call for the removal of the remaining obstacles to a true single market.

Mr Hurd told the Ulster Bank dinner in Dublin that the "supra-national powers given to the [European] Commission and the European Court are essential if we are to achieve a full single market".

## WAR WITH BRUSSELS

Mr Hurd pointed out that it was Baroness Thatcher who had been "quite right" to agree to a "substantial degree of qualified majority voting to set the single market in motion."

He said there was no case for extending the powers of the Commission and the European Court "into other fields where

governments can operate effectively on their own." But he added: "In the field of the single market, the Commission and the Court are the allies of those who want the playing field to be level. We should help them to move further and faster."

Mr Hurd's remarks about the importance of the European Court to progress on the single market will be seen in the Tory party as a rebuke to those rang-

ing from John Redwood to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who have argued for moves to drastically reduce the reach of European law.

Mr Redwood yesterday repeated his call for a declaration that Parliament was superior to European law. Mr Howard has been arguing behind the scenes for an amendment to the 1972 European Communities Act to remove the obligation on

British courts to enforce European law.

In arguing that more needed to be done to liberalise the internal market, Mr Hurd cited the example of public procurement contracts, which were "too often skewed, for example in Germany, in favour of the local firm." He added: "There is still too much bureaucracy in the European and national standards organisations."

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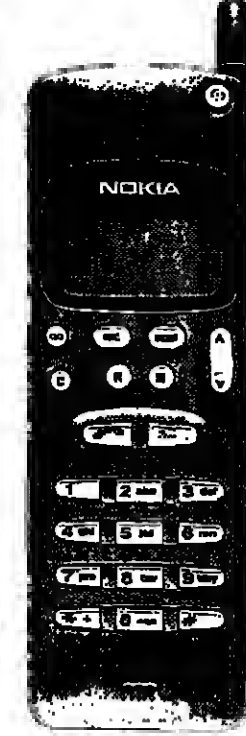
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## Vets' guidelines cheer British ministers

CHARLES ARTHUR and  
DONALD MACINTYRE

Ministers were cheered yesterday when their efforts to gain a partial lifting of the European beef ban next week were boosted by new guidelines on beef and beef products from an international body of vets.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), including chief veterinary officers from 117 countries, yesterday released a report saying that there is no proof of any risk of mad cow disease, or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, from trading in semen from healthy bulls, and that properly processed gelatine, collagen and tallow from cattle are harmless.

The WOAH also said that there is no reason to ban exports of British cattle or beef - as long as particular safety measures are taken. But it did support an "absolute ban" on the export of suspect organs now excluded by law

from human foods in the UK. These include the brain, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils and spleen of any cow aged over six months.

Semen, gelatine, collagen and tallow are all byproducts of beef processing, and the Government has been fighting hard to have the ban on their export to other European states lifted.

It was the refusal last week by several EU members to allow the byproducts' export which led to John Major's "non-cooperation" tactic in other EU dealings. The EU's veterinary officers met next Monday, and Britain will be lobbying hard to have the ban on these products lifted - a result whose significance would be political rather than financial.

For Britain to win its case, France and Germany would have to agree that the products - which generate about £40m of

export revenues - pose no threat of BSE.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) welcomed the report, saying that it was "a clear endorsement of the UK position on BSE" and that it "again shows that the EU export ban is entirely unjustified". MAFF also highlighted the fact that the WOAH report did not call for mass slaughter of cattle.

In a clear sign that Euro-sceptic Tories will demand substantial concessions from the EU on a "framework" for total lifting on the ban after next week, James Cran, MP for Beverley, said that the EU were trying to raise the stakes.

In a warning to Mr Major not to let up on his policy of non-cooperation with EU business, Mr Cran added: "The secret is that the Prime Minister must not blink. And I do not think he will. We have got to fight our corner. There is no way back."

## Milk under EU microscope

KATHERINE BUTLER  
Brussels

The European Commission will announce within the next day or so whether it believes babies are at risk from the latest powdered milk products found to contain low levels of harmful chemicals. It will also decide whether to ask the Government to publish the brand names of the baby foods tested.

Experts in Brussels began evaluating a report supplied by the Government yesterday but said they would need at least 48 hours to decide if the findings represent a health risk.

No brand names were contained in the 10-page report for-

warded in compliance with a commission request on Wednesday. A spokesman said that at this stage the commission had asked only for details of the levels of phthalates found and the methodology used by British researchers.

"It is too soon to say if we agree with the Department of Health's opinion that there is no risk. It is quite a complex calculation so we may need to call in outside experts," the spokesman said.

Other member states would be entitled to invoke public health safeguards in the EU

treaty to ban imports of the brands tested if the commission alerts them to an "urgent or imminent" risk, he added.

The baby milk scare could be placed on the agenda of the EU Scientific Committee for Food which is scheduled to meet next week if either the commission or another government thinks action at EU level is justified.

The commission sought information from Britain under its rapid reaction system for health scares. This obliges member states to report to Brussels on serious problems within 24 hours so it can assess whether citizens in other parts of the EU are at risk.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Water customers are to get legal rights to claim compensation if supplies are interrupted as a result of Drought Order being imposed, John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday. Domestic consumers may also be entitled to compensation if water pressure is inadequate, while business customers may be able to claim payment for losses incurred because of emergency restrictions being introduced.

Mr Gummer was responding to a report from the water regulator, Ofwat, calling on the Government to introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity. At present, consumers are not entitled to claim compensation under the industry's Guaranteed Standards Scheme if supplies are restricted or cut off in areas where Drought Orders are in force.

Mr Gummer said that the Government would consider this loophole should be closed. This would allow householders to claim £10 for every day that supplies were interrupted up to a maximum of the water company's average domestic bill. The average domestic bill nationwide is £218, but in the South-west, where charges are the highest in the country, it is £320. Michael Harrison

The offspring of Irish migrants to England and Wales suffer more illness and die sooner than the general population, according to new research which says an unhealthy lifestyle, including excess smoking and drinking, may be to blame. Previous research has shown that first generation Irish immigrants have a death rate which is 30 per cent higher for men, and 20 per cent higher for women, than the average for England and Wales. The fact that their offspring also appear unhealthier than the general population is a cause for concern, according to a paper published today in the *British Medical Journal*.

Researchers from the Office for National Statistics and the Institute of Public Health, at the University of Surrey in Guildford, conclude: "With over 2 million second generation Irish and growing numbers of a third generation, clearly special consideration should be given to their health." Liz Hunt

A national campaign against bullying yesterday called on the Government to amend the Parents' Charter to give parents and children a guarantee that complaints about bullying will be taken seriously. The call was made by Childline at the launch in London of its new report - titled *Why Me?* - which includes the results of a study carried out among children and in schools. The findings revealed that bullying in schools is still rife and that violent bullying, especially of boys, may be increasing.

Childline's chairman, Esther Rantzen, said: "At last the myth that bullying is good for you, that it is character forming, has been exploded. Bullying isn't good for anyone. It is a major cause of truancy. It destroys the victim's capacity to learn and enjoy school. And in extreme cases it can even lead to suicide - around 10 children every year kill themselves because they are bullied." Peter Victor

The debt-ridden Alexandra Palace site in north London is to become home to a multiplex cinema in an attempt to make it commercially viable, under plans expected to be endorsed by Haringey council last night. The development consortium, led by Champignons Leisure, McAlpine and Pillar Property, also intends to build a bowling alley, high-technology simulation rides and a tennis centre on the 123-year-old landmark at Muswell Hill.

Earlier this month Haringey, acting as trustee of the palace and park, accepted liability for £50m of the £55m losses on the redevelopment and running of the park since it took over from the Greater London Council in 1980. Nigel Willmott, chairman of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board, said: "This is an important step towards securing the long term future of Ally Pally. In the meantime existing business at the Palace is brisk." Paul Field

A private security firm is to patrol GP surgeries in Birmingham and provide protection for doctors and their staff from violent patients, as part of a new campaign to reduce the incidence of assault, burglaries, and vandalism. It follows mounting concern about the dangers doctors face each day, and the spiralling cost of security measures and building insurance premiums for their inner-city surgeries. So far 10 practices have signed up for the scheme which will cost £3,800 a year. Birmingham Health Authority will meet 70 per cent of the costs of the service provided by the Group 4 Total Security Force.

Melvin Henry, a spokesman for the health authority said: "The cost of measures such as alarms, fencing and lighting at GP practices has doubled in the last two years. This unique project is in response to that. We hope this initiative will reduce the risk to GPs, staff and patients, as well as providing a vital out-of-hours deterrent." Liz Hunt

Scientists were invited last night to submit proposals for investigations into Gulf War Syndrome. The move by the Medical Research Council was the latest step in the Ministry of Defence's programme to investigate illnesses suffered by veterans of the 1991 Gulf war.

Advertisements will be placed in leading science journals asking for proposals to examine two crucial areas: Whether British veterans suffer more ill-health because of Gulf service and, if so, the nature and extent of the risk and whether there are increased reproductive health problems in veterans and, if so, the nature and prevalence of the problems. Peter Victor

More than one-third of children in England and Wales were born outside wedlock last year as people continued to reject the idea of getting married before starting a family. A total of 33.9 per cent of live births occurred outside marriage in 1995, according to the Office for National Statistics. The figure was up slightly from 1994, when 32.4 per cent of children had parents who were not married. Experts say the trend reflects a shift in social and sexual attitudes in the last 10 years. In 1985, only 19.2 per cent of children were born illegitimately.

The Marquess of Bristol earned more than £50,000 yesterday by selling off eight lordships of the manor. But the prices made by his nine lots - one of which failed to reach its reserve - paled beside the £45,000 paid by an anonymous bidder for the Lordship of Brighton, and £30,000 for an obscure barony in Ireland. The Marquess, 41, once jailed for possession of heroin and cocaine, was selling his titles to help fund a new life in the Bahamas.

A loaf of bread, believed to have been found in the ashes of the Great Fire of London, was sold for £22 at a Sotheby's auction in Somerset yesterday. The bread was catalogued as "carbonised" and had been expected to fetch £40-£60. It has been part of an array of "eccentricities" collected by Robert Holland-Martin, chairman of Martin's Bank, a Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, and governor of Guy's Hospital, who died in 1944.

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# Thornton free after jury clears her of murder

Verdict fails to resolve legal issues of domestic violence. Will Bennett reports

Sara Thornton walked free from court yesterday after a jury found her not guilty of murdering her alcoholic husband, but convicted her of manslaughter.

The case had become a cause célèbre for women's groups because Thornton, 41, said that her husband, Malcolm, beat her up regularly. It put the issue of reforming the law on domestic violence firmly on the political agenda.

Thornton said after yesterday's verdict: "I am too tired to feel a sense of victory and there has been too much pain and at the end of the day, Malcolm died."

But the verdict after a 12-day retrial at Oxford Crown Court, ordered by the Court of Appeal, did nothing to resolve the issue of how the courts should deal with women driven to kill by repeated domestic violence.

Mr Justice Scott Baker sentenced Thornton to five years imprisonment for manslaughter, but said that the outcome was the result of evidence that she was suffering from a severe personality disorder rather than a question of provocation.

He told Thornton "I sentence you on the basis that your responsibility for killing your husband was diminished by your abnormality of mind."

Thornton showed no emotion as the jury of eight men and four women returned their verdict after deliberating for six hours and staying overnight in a hotel. She silently mouthed "I love you" to her daughter Louise moments before the jury foreman announced the decision.

Louise, 18, and Barbara Garver, Thornton's sister, wept with relief at the verdict.

Across the court Malcolm Thornton's family looked shocked and disappointed by the decision. Gladys Sothers, his sister, burst into tears.

The judge's sentence meant that Thornton could walk free as she had already served five and a half years of a life sentence imposed in 1990 when she was convicted at her first trial of murdering her husband.

"I do not think that you represent a continuing danger to the public and the sentence I am going to pass will not mean that you have to return to prison," the judge told her.

Thornton never denied killing her husband but claimed that she stabbed him accidentally after a row as he lay drunk on the sofa of their home in Althorpe, Warwickshire, in 1989. The prosecution claimed that she was a "pathological liar" who killed him for financial reasons.

She lost her first appeal but what had been a domestic murder case which had passed largely unnoticed was taken up by women's groups campaigning for a change in the way courts deal with domestic violence cases.

A high-profile campaign followed which culminated in a second appeal hearing last December, at which her lawyers said that she was a victim of "battered woman syndrome" as a result of her husband's repeated violence, which caused her to lose control and kill him.

The Court of Appeal quashed the murder conviction and ordered a retrial. But the question of battered woman syndrome played little part in her second trial, during which much attention was paid to her personality disorder.

Psychiatrists told the court that Thornton suffers from a condition called dissociation, which causes her to react inappropriately to events and tell people what she thinks they want to hear.



Helping hands: Sara Thornton outside court with her relatives after yesterday's verdict

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

After the verdict yesterday, Mrs Sothers said: "We basically think that the jury has bowed to feminist pressure. No one could have stood up to that."

Jean Murray, another of Mr Thornton's sisters, added: "It has cleared Malcolm's name in

that she has not proved that she was a battered wife. She has just proved that she has an abnormality of mind."

But Thornton said later: "We don't know how the jury found for manslaughter, whether it was for provocation or for di-

minished responsibility. They did come back and ask questions on provocation and so obviously the issue was uppermost in their minds."

She said that she thought the verdict and the sentence were fair and added: "I am not say-

ing that every woman should be sent to prison, but for me it was fair. I took a life at the end of the day."

As for her future, Thornton said she planned to write a book. "I have a vision of prisons as places of history rather than

punishment. Prison was a healing place for me." She added: "I have a new life to build."

Asked about her conscience, she said: "I'm very, very judgemental of myself, probably more than anybody else. Forgive myself? Not yet."

## Tragedy that tore apart a family

Rarely have the wounds of a family been so exposed as they were during the retrial of Sara Thornton for the murder of her husband Malcolm. Little had been forgotten and even less forgiven, writes Will Bennett.

A sheet of paper was passed across the pane of glass which separated Thornton from the small public gallery to stop her husband's family from glaring at her. They had been moved to the back of the court so that the jury could not see their reactions to evidence.

Like the complex Thornton herself, nothing about this case was straightforward and it spawned a tangled web of family alliances. The first witness for the prosecution was Henry Cooper, her father, and the second was her stepmother Juliette. Both painted an unsympathetic picture of her.

Thornton has always blamed many of her problems on her upbringing, portraying her father as cold and uncaring, and her mother, Jane, who died more than 20 years ago, as a brutal disciplinarian.

It is four years since father and daughter have spoken, their always fragile relationship shattered by the publicity surrounding the case. He is angered by the accusations she has made about her childhood, and she has never got over his comment after the first trial that "justice had been done".

Later in the retrial, the Coopers sat in the public gallery immediately behind Jean Murray and Gladys Sothers, Malcolm Thornton's sisters, who have always maintained that he was not violent. It was an unlikely alliance.

In the years following the stabbing of Mr Thornton, one of the most vociferous voices in his support was that of Moyra Friend. She died last October from asthma which her family say was exacerbated by the stress of the impending retrial.

By contrast the first witness for the defence was Thornton's sister Billi Garver, who now lives in California. She cried as she told the court how she found her sister lying in a pool of blood after a suicide attempt. There was a softness in her voice as she mentioned Thornton's extreme behaviour and mood swings.

A few feet from the Coopers, across the aisle of the public gallery, which seemed to represent an unbridgeable divide, sat Louise, Thornton's 18-year-old daughter from her first marriage, who lives with Mrs Garver and has always supported her mother. The two factions did not acknowledge one another.

## Trial forced plight of battered wives into the open

We will never know quite what went through the jury's mind when they brought in yesterday's verdict on Sara Thornton. And after two appeals and two trials there will remain those convinced that Thornton is a calculating killer and those equally convinced that she was more sinned against than sinner.

What is not in doubt, however, is that it was her case, her imprisonment, her hunger-strike protest and her campaign that put the plight of battered women firmly on the agenda, forcing senior judges to acknowledge that the law often did not deal fairly between men and women.

Since domestic violence accounts for one in four of all recorded violent crimes, the fight is not over. But Thornton and others in similar positions have benefited from greater understanding, inside and outside the courts. In two other high-profile cases - Kiranjit Alhwalia, who burnt to death a husband who had tortured her for 10 years, and Emma Humphreys, who killed her violent boyfriend - murder convictions were reduced to manslaughter by the Court of Appeal.

For the first time appeal judges were taking into account the cumulative effects of sustained violence on the killers. The difference in approach was crucial because it amounted to the judiciary acknowledging battered women's syndrome for the first time, and deciding what effect this would have had on a woman's behaviour.

The shift in attitude is none the less limited, and it remains the case that a man is more likely to be able to run the defence of provocation than a woman. People who kill can claim self-defence, diminished responsibility or provocation in their

The law needs to shift further in acknowledging the effects of provocation on women, writes Heather Mills

defence. For the battered wife, provocation would seem the most obvious, but while the Alhwalia and Humphreys cases have tilted the law a little more in favour of abused women, it remains a rule that there must be a "sudden and temporary" loss of control. A man is often more inclined to lose control in that way - and to possess the physical strength to give immediate vent to it.

Where there is any delay between the provocation and the response the defence is far trickier. Courts have maintained that any delay is a cooling-off period: lawyers and women's groups seek to widen the definition, insisting that for women it is the complete opposite, a "boiling over" period.

So provocation can lead to the acquittal of a man who suddenly snaps, even if the trigger is something trivial - as in the case of Thomas Corlett, who killed his wife after she moved the mustard pot to the wrong side of the table and was sentenced to three years for manslaughter. Or Joseph McGrail, who at the same time as Thornton killed her alcoholic husband, killed his alcoholic common law wife. He was given a suspended sentence by a judge who said the woman "would have tried the patience of a saint".

There might not have been such a need for the debate on the finer legal definitions of provocation or diminished responsibility if courts could reflect circumstances in

sentencing. The Thornton affair has equally illustrated the shortcomings of the mandatory life sentence for murder, which meant she had to receive the same sentence as a hit-man or terrorist who kills dozens.

Senior judges, led by Lord Taylor the outgoing Lord Chief Justice, and numbers of peers, lawyers and academics believe that the inflexibility of the law on homicide is bringing the justice system into disrepute.

Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice not noted for particularly liberal views, said he "cannot believe there is public support" for a law which treats a terrorist who kills with a bomb in the same way as a doctor or relative who helps in a mercy killing or a battered wife

who kills her husband. "There is a huge range of murder and to lump them all together and give them the same sentence is wrong," he has said.

But Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has made clear his view that murder, no matter what the motive, is so serious that it must carry a life penalty. It is an open question whether an incoming Labour government would risk sending a different message to the public.

In the meantime, domestic violence remains a serious social problem. It is true that legal and cultural attitudes have moved on. The police are not so prone to treat cases of wife-battering as "domestics" in which they should not intervene. The 1976 domestic-violence legislation and the increased use of court injunctions have provided some degree of protection. A special five-judge Court of Appeal

made history in 1991 by ruling that husbands could be found guilty of raping their wives. That swept away a centuries-old immunity for violent husbands, dating from a 1736 statement by Sir Matthew Hale, the Chief Justice, that "by their mutual matrimonial consent and contract the wife hath given herself in this kind unto her husband which she cannot retract".

But the latest research suggests that one in four women has been the victim of some kind of abuse. Sandra Horley, a social psychologist and chief executive of Refuge, has called for a co-ordinated initiative - with education and training, greater support and counselling, more refuges, and a tough line from the police and courts to deal with the abusers.

Then, conceivably, we would not be dealing with so many domestic killings in the courts.

## MoD makes a mint from sale of Gulf war gold coins

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

You've read the book, you've seen the film, now buy the souvenir coin issue.

A million pounds' worth of gold sovereigns, issued to RAF aircrew and SAS men who might have been captured behind Iraqi lines during the Gulf War and need to buy their way out of trouble, are to be sold by the MoD to raise money. It emerged yesterday that the presentation packs will be signed

by General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who is widely blamed for starting an avalanche of books and television programmes about the SAS. The news has furthered angered members of the forces who blame Sir Peter for compromising the SAS mystique.

In certain parts of the world, only gold will do. Whereas the warring factions in Bosnia were keen to steal credit cards, in the desert, gold says more than American Express ever can. The coins were carried by air-

crew and SAS men and taped into their clothing, perhaps to persuade Bedouin tribesmen to send them back to the allied forces without performing traditional desert customs, which could include castration. Each man carried 20 coins.

The MoD purchased the 60,000 gold coins from the Bank of England in January 1991, just before the conflict erupted, for about £60 each. The real value of the 22-carat gold coins will fluctuate with the price of gold. Instead of selling

them back to the bank of England, the MoD decided it could make more money by selling them in presentation packs.

Gold coins are a standard part of "Escape and Evasion" equipment - survival kit "for individuals who might find themselves at special risk or particularly vulnerable to capture behind enemy lines".

The MoD order clearly anticipated the Gulf War lasting longer than it did, and the sale of the 16,000 coins for 800 combatants is seen as "good

housekeeping". If another conflict should occur in which significant numbers of service personnel have to operate behind enemy lines, the MoD said, they will make another order.

As a Lieutenant General, Sir Peter, who had served in the SAS, was the senior British officer in Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Gulf War. Sources told the *Independent* his signature on the presentation packs would attest that the coins had been to the Gulf and back.

"They are standard bullion sovereigns - they weren't minted specially for the occasion or anything like that", sources told the *Independent*.

A huge proportion of them were obviously issued to troops and airmen, because they've got the sticky from the tape they used to stick them to the webbing still on them."

The liquidity of solid gold coins has long made them an attractive means of exchange, even after the introduction of banknotes, travellers' cheques

and credit cards. In the film of *From Russia with Love*, James Bond reveals he is carrying gold sovereigns in his briefcase.

With paper currencies fluctuating wildly, Special Operations Executive commandos who raided the Nazi missile base at Peenemünde in the Second World War took gold sovereigns with them as means of persuasion if captured.

The Curator of the Royal Engineers' Museum at Chatham recalled the story of a young Engineer officer sent to Egypt

just after the turn of the century to map the Nile Delta. He took quantities of gold to hire horses and staff. His drawings of Egyptian temples were so brilliant they instigated a stream of protest against the Government's plans to flood the delta.

Gold sovereigns may be on the way out. "We've opened up quite a few offices in the new states of the former Soviet Union and so on in the past few years", the Foreign Office said. "But they haven't gone off with bags full of gold sovereigns".

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## news

## Parents' six-hour ordeal waiting for news

The Dunblane tragedy: Inquiry told of delays while dead children were identified

The emotional ordeal suffered by the parents of children who died in the massacre at Dunblane was revealed yesterday when the inquiry was told that some parents only learned they had lost their son or daughter six hours after the shooting had taken place.

The confusion in an operation the police could probably never have envisaged, the difficulties the authorities faced in co-ordinating information on the dead and injured and the chaos at the school as worried parents demanded to know if the children were alive or dead, were highlighted in evidence given before Lord Cullen in Stirling.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Ogg, the senior officer at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March, was questioned by advocate Laura Dunlop, acting for the families of children who were injured and murdered by Thomas Hamilton. Det Ch Supt Ogg had given details of how from around 10am the police had tried to identify the children

still alive and taken to hospitals, and those who were dead.

Initially, all parents were ushered into a private house near the school. Most had gathered at the school by 10.31am. As information trickled in, parents of class 1.13, which had been in the gymnasium, were taken to another house to wait. Most parents of injured children were told by 1.30pm. Others had to wait longer. Parents of pupils believed

Reports: James Cusick

dead were then driven to the school to wait in the staff room.

Asked whether there were still parents waiting to be told if their son or daughter were dead at 5.30pm, Det Ch Supt Ogg said: "I don't think so." Following his answer there were sighs of incredulity from parents and relatives sitting in the gallery. When told this was the case, he said he found it "difficult to believe".

The confusion was illustrated when Ms Dunlop said the

husband and daughter of the murdered teacher, Gwen Mayor, were kept in separate rooms at the school. Rodney Mayor had been frantically trying to contact his daughter, Esther, on the telephone for an hour when she was only a few feet away.

Identifying the bodies in the gym, Det Ch Supt Ogg said, "was an unbelievable situation. Staff were breaking down. I saw some officers crying".

Supt Joseph Holden, the officer initially in charge of placing a cordon round the school, said he had been confronted by anxious parents who had heard on the radio at 10.30am that 12 children had been killed. Supt Holden said he had not been told this. He explained to the inquiry that as there had been conflicting reports in identifying who was dead or injured, he had decided that all information should be reconfirmed before parents were told.

Mr Holden, admitting there could have been a margin of error in the timings of when parents

were told, said "I can't think how it could have been better done".

The headteacher, Ronald Taylor, yesterday described how on the day of the massacre the school's assembly had only just finished. Around 250 pupils and 10 staff began filing out of the assembly hall at 9.30am. To clear the hall "took three or four minutes". Police estimate Hamilton's first shot was fired only three minutes or so later.

Mr Taylor said he was in his office when he heard noise, which he believed to come from builders. He was on the telephone, when the assistant head, Agnes Awlson, entered his room in a crouched position. She told him a man with a gun was in the school and to get down. "I dialled 999," he said. Three minutes from hearing the first "noise" Mr Taylor went to the gym. "It was a scene of unimaginable carnage, our worst nightmare. The air was thick with blue smoke, the smell of cordite was strong."

The inquiry continues.

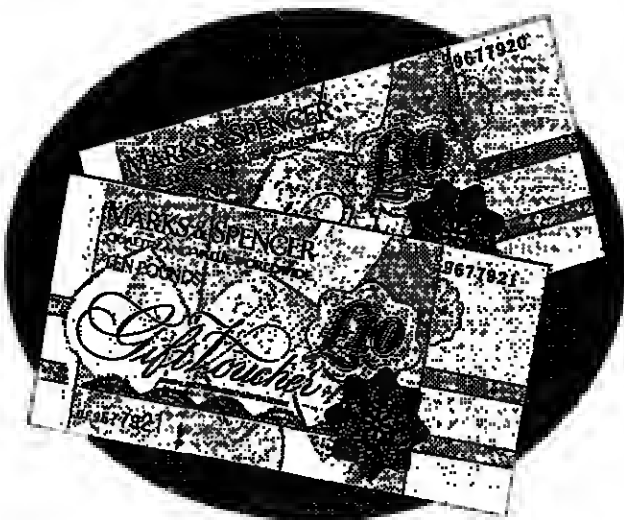


Seeking truth: Parents and relatives leaving the inquiry at the Albert Hall in Stirling

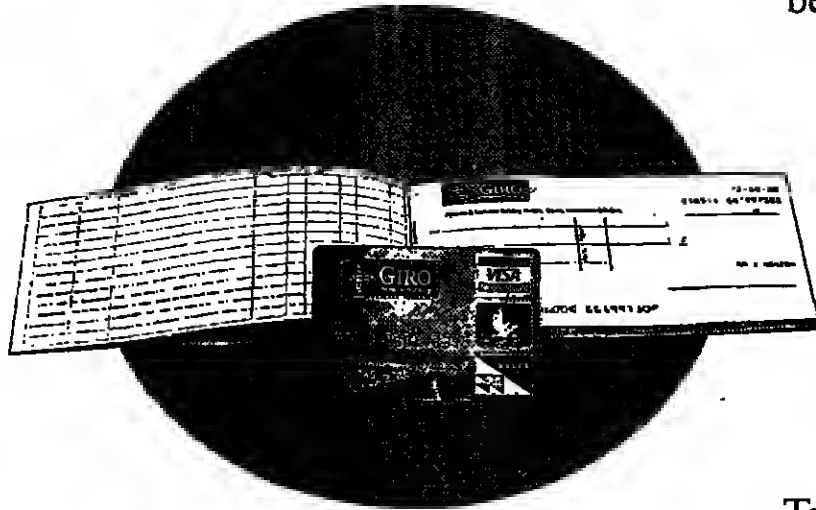
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## Killer was facing prosecution over council tax debt

Thomas Hamilton was severely in debt and on the verge of facing prosecution over unpaid council tax when he shot himself. On the second day of the Dunblane inquiry it was revealed that the boys' clubs that Hamilton had run since 1988 and which had attracted much public suspicion had not - as his relatives believed - made him money, but in fact cost him nearly £16,000.

Insight into Hamilton's childhood and the life his family believed he led, were given in evidence to the inquiry yesterday by his mother, Agnes Watt, 64, and from his grandfather, James Hamilton, now aged 87.

For most of his childhood Hamilton had believed his mother was his sister. In 1950, Mrs Watt had married Thomas Hamilton. In 1952, the couple had a son, Thomas, but separated shortly after his birth. Mrs Watt went back to live with her parents. She went out to work and her parents adopted their grandson. When he was about 16, Hamilton was told Mrs Watt was his mother. But he continued for some time to regard and treat her as his sister.

Mrs Watt struggled to give much details of the life her son had led. She said she and her husband met regularly. He telephoned her every night. But she knew little about her son's friends, what was his source of income was, or much about the boys' clubs he had run.

Hamilton's grandfather, with whom he lived until 1992, also appeared to know little of his interests.

On the day before Hamilton carried out the mass murder at Dunblane Primary School, he had gone round to his mother's house for a bath and "a blither". When he did not call

his mother that night, Mrs Watt had phoned his home the following morning. By that time he had murdered 17 people and shot himself. A police officer answered the telephone at Hamilton's Stirling home.

The inquiry also heard details of Hamilton's finances. Through a series of overdrawn bank accounts, heavy use of a Barclaycard, an account at Debenhams, and loans given through finance companies for business supposedly based on the buying and selling of cam-



Thomas Hamilton: Had no measurable income

eras, Hamilton owed, according to police inquiries, just over £11,000.

Police estimate the running of the boys' clubs since 1988 had cost him £15,907. He had only one bank account in the black - with 3p lodged.

Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Hughes told the inquiry that Hamilton had no measurable income, was in receipt of housing benefit, but not unemployment benefit, and that a sheriff's warrant for unpaid council tax had also recently been issued to him.

## 'Vogue' caught in model debate

GLENDA COOPER

Pictures of skeletal models in their underwear have prompted a leading watch company to withdraw its advertising campaign from the glossy fashion magazine *Vogue* it was claimed last night.

The move is bound to fuel the continuing debate about the link between eating disorders and so-called "super-waif" models whose emaciated frames are used in fashion shoots.

Giles Rees, brand director for Omega, said he was "appalled" at the "extremely distasteful" pictures of the women modelling underwear. "I thought it was irresponsible for a leading magazine which should be setting an example to select models of anorexic proportions," he said yesterday.

It is not the first time *Vogue* has been criticised in this way. In the June 1993 issue photographs of model Kate Moss were described as close to "child pornography", with the waif-like model posing in see-through knickers reminiscent of sex-shop merchandise.

Last year criticism of the 17-year-old model Jodie Kidd, 6ft 1in and reputedly under 9 stone, led to her exit from shows in New York and Milan in order to put on weight.

Mr Rees said of the *Vogue* shoot: "It made every effort to

accentuate their skeletal appearance. Since *Vogue* presumably targets an audience which includes young and impressionable females, its creators must surely be aware that they will inevitably be influenced by what laughably passes for fashion in these pages."

"Since I have no intention of endorsing this type of editorial... I have suspended any further advertising with *Vogue*," he said.

Omega uses models such as Cindy Crawford and Elle MacPherson for its watch campaigns, but Mr Rees said although they were slim, they were not excessively thin.

"In using these models, along with our sporting 'heroes' and other testimonials, it is our intention to promote accomplishment, rather than unrealistic physical expectations," he said.

The director of the Eating Disorders Association, Joanna Vincent, welcomed Omega's move, saying: "We hope other commercial companies and advertisers will adopt a more responsible attitude with the fashion models they use."

But Stephen Quinn, publishing director of *Vogue*, said he had received no official confirmation of the campaign's withdrawal. "We will be speaking to the managing director of Omega before we will accept this as a cancellation," he said.



## Drinkers to get extra time as laws are relaxed

GLENDIA COOPER

Drinkers could be given an extra hour to drink up in pubs and clubs over weekends by the end of the summer if new Home Office proposals go ahead.

The move, backed by police, is designed to bring drinking laws up to date for the 1990s. While drinking laws were radically revised in 1988 when all day drinking was introduced, some laws still date back to First World War attempts to curb drunkenness in vital munitions factories.

Under the new proposals laid out in a Home Office consultation document, pubs would be permitted to serve alcohol until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and registered clubs could add an hour to their late licences. Landlords would have to apply individually, giving magistrates absolute discretion over granting or refusing licences.

Tim Kirkhope, a Home Office Minister, said: "We need licensing laws that reflect the leisure needs of today and give people the opportunity to spend their money when they want to and where they want to."

"My proposals represent a further sensible and measured relaxation of licensing hours on what are the most popular nights of the week for enjoying a drink in the local pub. They also allow for responsible control by licensing authorities."

The new proposals, out for consultation until 30 August, will please brewers but may cause concern in the wider community in towns and cities

already plagued by trouble at pub closing-out time.

A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers' Association said: "We think it is good news for many pub customers. Longer hours do not lead to more drunkenness, but the very opposite is true. People can drink in a more relaxed manner and choose to drink when they want."

And the police do not believe the plans will cause major problems. Keith Povey, Leicester-shire's Chief Constable and a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "The Police Service supports measured relaxation in the present licensing regime. The consultation is a welcome development and the proposals will be given favourable consideration by Acpo."

Dr John Rae, director of the Portman Group which was set up by the drinks industry to promote sensible drinking, said: "I don't think an hour of drinking will lead to more drunkenness and disorder. My view is these things depend on how well a pub is managed, the local authority's attitude to public transport, how well the sensible drinking message has got across."

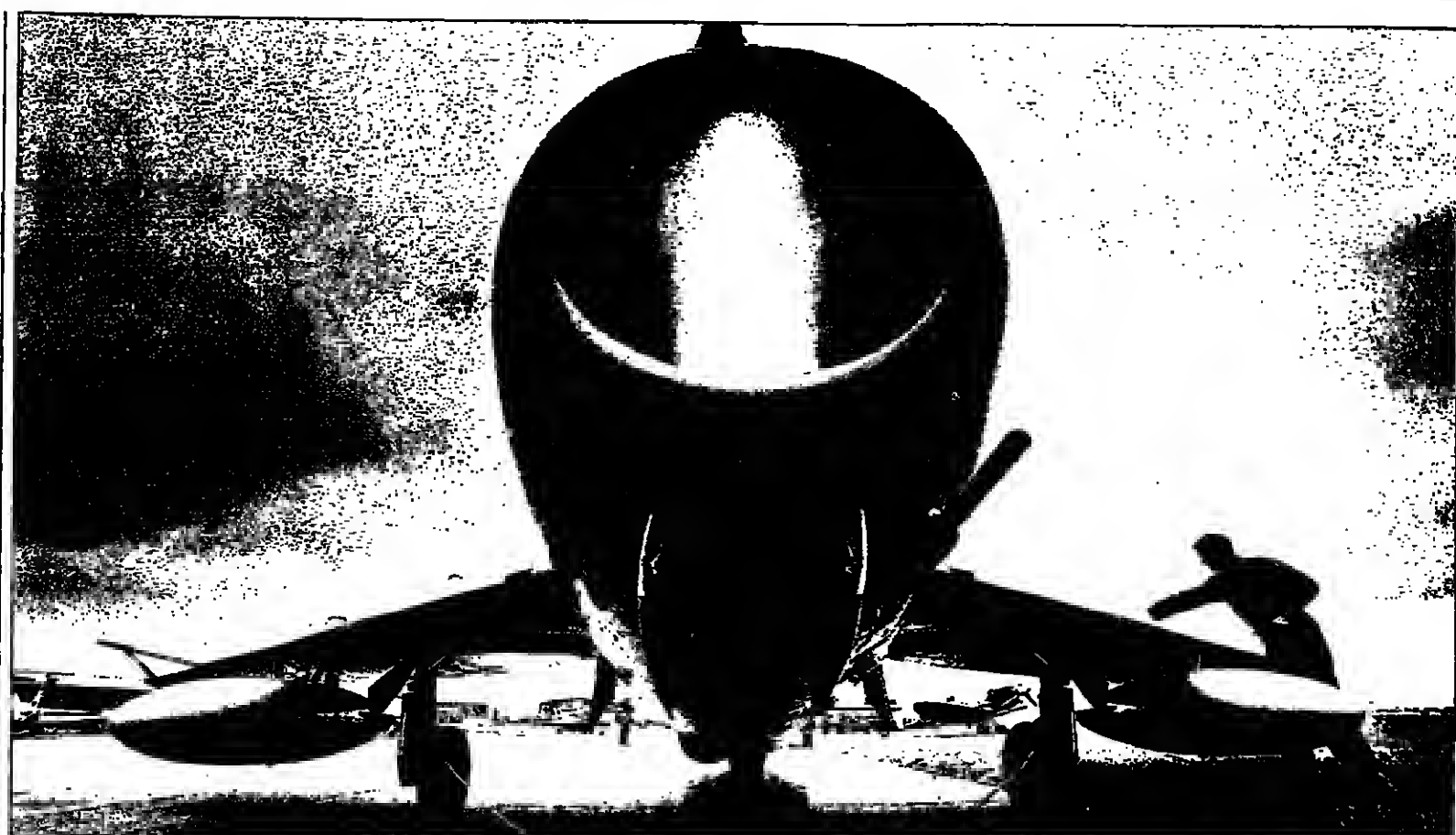
But a spokesman for Alcohol Concern said: "Our feeling is that it would delay the problems surrounding chugging-out time, with people spilling on to the streets an hour or more later than usual. It would also be more difficult to get public transport. It's hard enough at normal closing time but it would be even harder at midnight, which might encourage more

people to take their cars to the pub. It also might make people knock back a bit more than they would normally do."

A spokeswoman for the Methodist Church, which has long warned of the evils of alcohol, agreed that longer opening hours could encourage heavy drinkers to drink more.

"Research shows that one in four men drink too much and that 38 per cent of young men between 18 and 24 drink more than the recommended amount each week," she said.

"We would be concerned that longer opening hours would spur them on to drink even more. The heavy-drinking minority are the people who make the trouble."



Poised for flight: A MiG15 jet of the type used in combat against the United States in the Korean war 45 years ago ready for Sunday's Classic Jet and Fighter Display organised by the Old Flying Machine Company at Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire. Photograph: Brian Hams

**"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"**

## Safety drives fail to dent road deaths toll

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

The death toll on Britain's roads remained virtually the same in 1995 as in the previous year, ending a series of sharp declines. The figures will disappoint road safety campaigners and will provide ammunition for those seeking more radical measures to be taken against speeding motorists.

In 1995, 3,621 people died on Britain's roads compared with 3,650 in 1994. While this is again a record low since statistics were first collected in 1926, the very small reduction suggests that the figures are bottoming out at a level which the roads minister, Steven Norris, said still means "nearly 10 people a day are dying in road accidents". Between 1989 and 1994, deaths went down sharply each year, reducing from 5,373 to 3,650.

Provisional figures issued in March had indicated a slight increase in the number of deaths, but the Department of Transport said yesterday that these earlier figures had been based on inflated estimates in some areas. Serious injuries were down by 2 per cent to 45,523, while slight injuries re-

duced by 1 per cent to 261,362. In 1987, the Government adopted a target to reduce road casualties by one-third from the average during the 1980s. While this target has been met for fatalities and serious injuries, slight injuries are 8 per cent above the baseline figure.

Pedestrian deaths went down by 8 per cent to 1,032 and pedestrian casualties decreased by 3 per cent. This is partly explained by a reduction in walking revealed in other surveys as more and more people use cars even for very short journeys.

The number of cyclists killed on the roads rose to 213, an increase of a quarter on 1994, but this may be explained by an increase in the number of people using bikes. It is still well below the early 1980s average of 312.

The end of the declining trend has led the Government to launch a hard-hitting campaign against speeding motorists, who are thought to be responsible for one-third of road deaths.

However, there was criticism yesterday because the Department of Transport has decided to stop issuing quarterly statistics on road casualties "because of financial cutbacks".

## British men are less fertile than Finns

LIZ HUNT  
Health Editor

Fears about declining sperm quality and quantity nationally could be justified. This is suggested by a study showing Finnish men are more fertile than their British peers.

The Finns are known to have the highest sperm counts in the world and appear to have escaped the falling sperm counts and abnormalities of the reproductive tract which are being reported from the rest of Europe. These have been linked with chemicals, such as the phthalates at the centre of the baby milk row, which mimic the female hormone oestrogen.

However, the new study speculates that the "Finnish exception" to falling sperm rates may be due to lower rates of maternal smoking in Finland compared with the rest of Europe.

The study by Dr Michael Joffe, a senior lecturer in public health at Imperial College, London, is significant because it assessed how long it took cou-

ples to get pregnant as a measure of fertility, rather than sperm counts or motility which are difficult to compare.

"It is the first time that someone has shown a change in fertility as well as a change in sperm quality," Dr Joffe said yesterday.

To test the hypothesis that Finnish males are more fertile than British males, Dr Joffe compared "time to pregnancy" data from two different studies in each country carried out between the early 1980s and 1991.

According to a report in tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*, fertility was statistically significantly greater in Finland than Britain. Dr Joffe concludes: "The previously reported difference in sperm counts between Finland and elsewhere in north-west Europe is probably not artefactual, suggesting that the reported worldwide decline in semen quality is also real."

Dr Joffe said more research was needed to establish the reasons for the differences in male fertility between Finland and the rest of Europe.

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## news

**Head Teachers' conference:** As Labour turns its back on progressive education, schools crave hard cash to improve standards

## Blunkett treads a bumpy road to reform

David Blunkett must have felt relieved yesterday when his call for a return to traditional teaching methods in primary schools was received with polite restraint by head teachers. Three years ago when John Patten, then Secretary of State for Education, delivered a similar message he was booed.

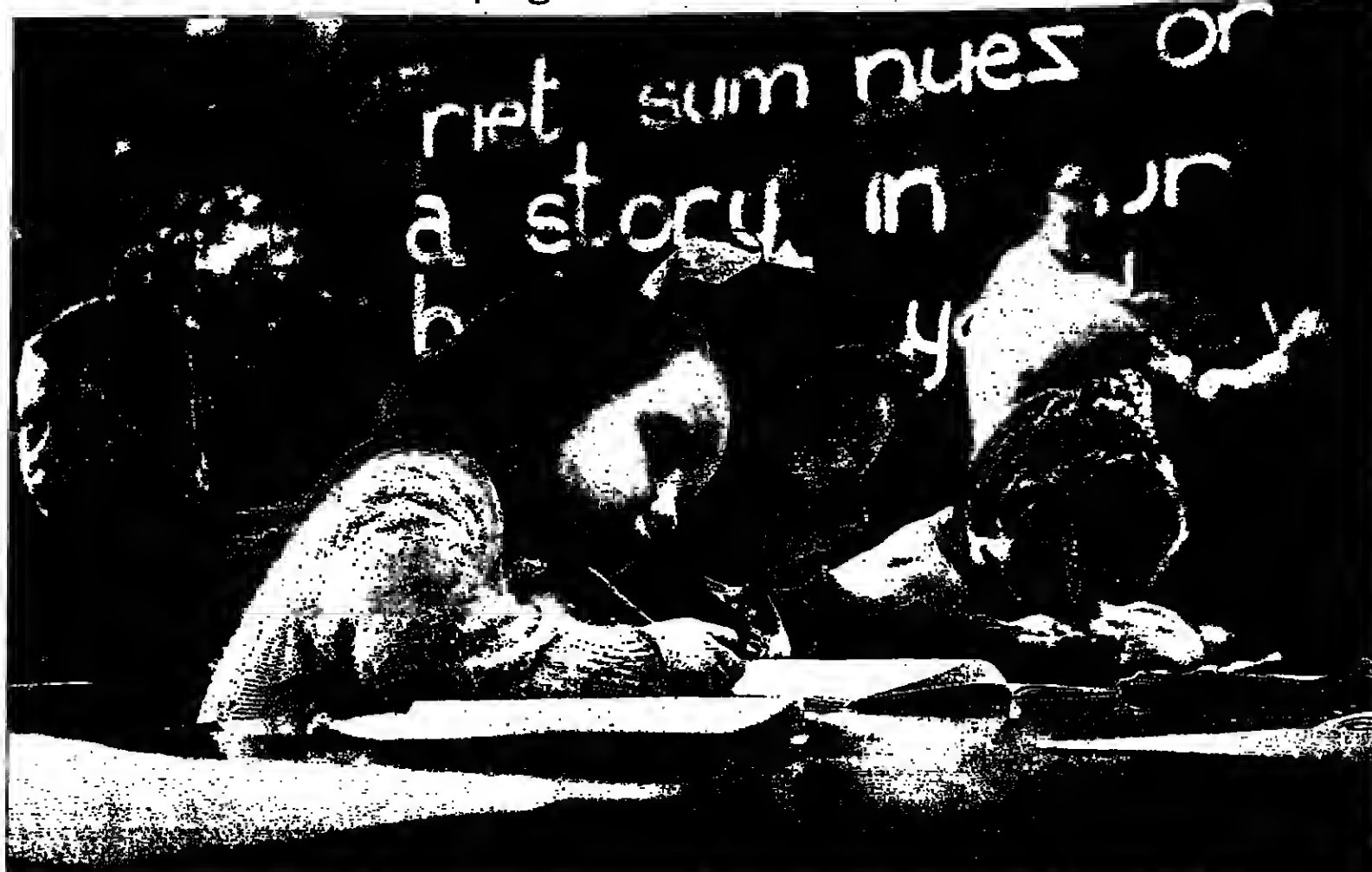
The warmer reception which greeted Mr Blunkett at this year's National Association of Head Teachers conference was due in part to the fact that he is not yet in power, and the cat-calls which Mr Patten faced owed something to the profession's frustration over issues such as testing, league tables, and the National Curriculum.

But the intervening years have also seen a sea-change in classrooms which Labour's education spokesman must have known would work in his favour. In 1993 the Government's "Three Wise Men" report on primary-school teaching methods had just recommended the increase in whole-class teaching, phonics and streaming which Mr Blunkett now advocates. At the time, teachers were angered by the suggestion from educationalists

### Analysis

Chris Woodhead, Robin Alexander and Jim Rose that their reluctance to abandon the progressive style of the 1960s had caused pupils to fail. They maintained that they had always used a mixture of methods, and to an extent they were right. But despite the profession's initial resistance the ideological pendulum has begun to swing back in favour of traditional teaching. Primary teachers are more likely to deliver their lessons to a whole class, rather than allowing children to work in groups and children are more likely to be put into sets according to ability.

So Mr Blunkett, whose decision to set out guidance on teaching methods contrasts sharply with his party's earlier *laissez-faire* attitude, is pushing at a door which is already half-open. He knows, though, that he is entering a debate which has raged fiercely for more than three decades, and he has done his homework. His researches have taken him back to the Plowden Report of 1967,



Writing on the wall: A primary teacher uses chalk and blackboard in class as the educational pendulum swings back towards traditional methods

which he criticised yesterday for promoting progressive methods and clouding the importance of direct teaching. He has noted that as early as 1983 primary schools were being urged to sharpen up their practice in the teaching of maths. And he has pointed out that research published a decade ago highlighted gaps in achievement between schools with very similar intakes.

He has been careful not to lay all the blame for failures in lit-

eracy and numeracy at the door of the teaching profession, though. He has blamed the Government for failing to spread good practice and for allowing the National Curriculum to squeeze out the basics.

The road he has chosen, however, is a bumpy one. Two groups, both vocal and determined, are bound to protest.

The teacher trainers, accused by Mr Blunkett of turning out recruits who cannot teach the

basics or control a class, will argue that problems in primary schools have more to do with under-funding and a surfeit of Government initiatives than with sub-standard training or an attachment to 1960s ideology.

There is also an element in the teaching profession which will remain deeply sceptical. Many teachers still believe that education is about exploration and discovery rather than about cramming facts into heads.

They will be no more willing to respond to a Labour Party which they believe has put on Conservatives' clothing than they have been to the pressures exerted by the Government.

For now, most teachers are reserving judgement until they see what a Labour government will do. Their overriding concern is that more money should be put into education, and they will be much more ready to listen to arguments about what

they do in their classrooms if they have the books and resources they need.

Mr Blunkett should not assume that the heads' muted response yesterday was a sign of approval. If he does not have some hard cash in his back pocket by the time he visits next year's conference, he should prepare himself for a rough ride.

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

## Schools inspectors on 'gravey train'

Schools inspectors are earning up to £80,000 per year and can take as much as 18 weeks holiday, a head-teachers' leader said yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.

David Hart, General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, attacked the payments as "grossly inflated" and accused the Government of allowing school inspections to become a gravey train.

Some head teachers who were planning to retire this term and become inspectors would be able to add their £15,000-per-year pensions to these earnings along with a lump sum, he added.

He told his association's annual conference in Torquay that the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, had confirmed that a registered inspector or team leader could make a profit of around £4,500 on each inspection. By carrying out 17 one-week inspections per year and by restricting preparation and report writing to a week, an inspector could earn three times the salary of a primary-school head, he said, adding: "This just demonstrates the crass standards we have in our education system."

Privatised teams now bid for contracts to carry out inspections under a programme designed to cover every school in England by 1998.

Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Association of Lay Inspectors, denied that the job was overpaid and said most team leaders spent about three weeks on each inspection. "If we want the right calibre of people... then this is the right money. But we should be bringing the rest of the education system into the same wage bracket," she said. Parents at the school attended by Mary-Claire Patten, nine-year-old daughter of the former Secretary of State for Education, John Patten, have voted against opting out of local authority control. A ballot at St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic primary school in Westminster, London, revealed that 139 were against the move while just 55 were in favour.

## Goal is to rediscover 'balance' in primary teaching

Parents should be as concerned about choosing a primary school as they are over the choice of secondary. By the time children reach 11, the die has been largely cast. Educational underachievement and socio-economic factors have already taken their toll.

The national test results at 11 have shown that half our young people are performing below par in maths and English. Even when the problems over testing

David Blunkett's speech to association outlines policy under a future Labour government

are taken into account, there is still a major problem to be addressed.

Debate has raged since the Sixties around the most appropriate method for teaching at primary level. In 1967, the Plowden report set the stage for what was intended to be a balance in teaching between instruction and exploration. However, interpretations of the report leant

too far towards child-centred education. Small-group exploration was overused at the expense of whole-class instruction.

Since Plowden, primary teaching has too often neglected the importance of the direct transmission of information to children. Teachers' pedagogic skills have often been lost in an over-reliance on children's self-discovery and exploration.

The Government has failed to disseminate good practice or to act. The overloaded national curriculum caused particular problems for primary schools. Too much concentration on academic debates over the curriculum squeezed out the vital focus on teaching the basics. A decade later, ministers choose simply to abuse rather than to support schools constructively.

By the time the report of the so-called "Three Wise Men" was released in 1992, teacher training had focused too much on one approach, confusing many teachers and undermining their skills in translating knowledge into learning. Teachers had not been taught how to teach.

The Three Wise Men's report recommended a sensible bal-

ance in teaching. It suggested that teachers should choose teaching techniques "fit for their purpose" and not according to dogma or habit.

Teachers must be taught more about how to manage a class, including how to teach a whole class, as those in other countries are taught. Teaching the basics from the start must be the overriding goal. This is

why we must not simply have league tables of teacher training institutions but a plan of action for improvement as well.

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# Blair's personal chaplain from Down Under

Tony Blair's Christian socialist mentor – and best mate – has returned to London. Ian Hargreaves tracked him down for this exclusive interview in today's *New Statesman*

Unlikely setting. Unlikely man. The place is London N7, a quarter-mile to the west of Holloway prison, the same distance north from Pentonville. Walk ten minutes and you're at Tony Blair's house in Islington. We're in a small flat which sits above the St Francis Church of England Centre, a bland 60s-ish brick structure which provides a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous, a disabled kids' group and an Ethiopian church of Coptic Christians.

The man is Peter Thomson, 60, Australian, Anglican vicar. To the extent that he's famous, it is for having inspired the young Tony Blair at Oxford towards an idea of Christian socialism which continues to drive him. But those who know Thomson can tell you that he's famous for much else: he was booted out of one curacy in

got the job.

Thomson's journey is worth plotting, because it reveals a lot not just about where Tony Blair found some of his most formative ideas, but because Thomson, like Blair himself, is still travelling. Although Blair takes care not to wear religion on his sleeve, there is no doubt that Christian socialism continues to inform and define his political philosophy.

Thomson's own journey began unremarkably enough, as an impressionable 17-year-old who thought there must be a nobler thing to do than help run his father's estate agency. He went to theological college, a rather conservative one as it happens, but through a friend encountered politics. It was the first step towards an engagement with liberation theology – that potent blend of Marx and the gospels which tore through Latin America and elsewhere in the 1970s, preaching a militant bias to the poor. "I had never been politically challenged before and it just blew my mind – there was a basic rationale for faith that was not about personal salvation or being perfect. I could see there was a job to do."

Thomson also discovered the work of John Macmurray, a Scottish theologian who, in Thomson's view, grounded Christian thinking in action and human relationships. For Thomson, the argument is summarised in his favourite Macmurray quote: "All meaningful knowledge is for the sake of action, all meaningful action is for the sake of friendship."

It is not difficult to see why Blair, a curious observer rather than a member of the Oxford God Squad, was attracted to Thomson's blend of religion, politics, sport and riotous hilarity. "I remember the first time I met him in that Afghan coat," says Thomson, of Blair. "He wasn't particularly religious, but he was just alive. Tony had never heard theology spoken of in this way, but I had no idea just how deeply it had got to him."

After two years at St John's, Oxford, Thomson returned to Australia and, eventually, to Timbortop. The connection with the Blairs became that of good family friends. The two families spent last Christmas together, at Thomson's 200-acre farm near Timbortop.

So it is that Thomson finds himself in London, in the most testing year of Blair's life. "I want no role other than

friendship," he says.

It's not entirely clear what that will mean. Partly, Thomson sees himself as the older friend the Blair family needs as it heads towards Downing Street. It's not difficult to imagine him straying across the border to NI to offer Tony a piece of his mind about the latest Shadow Cabinet battle. In a sense, he will be personal chaplain to the Blairs: that's if a chaplain can also be best mate, which in Thomson's case is not in any doubt.

But will the two men agree about ideas, as they once so resonantly did at Oxford? In Thomson's view New Labour has a coherent and vibrant philosophical underpinning. "It all starts with the word community. The idea of community represents the breakthrough of a philosophical position," he says. "It means the individual has no meaning except through relationships, so that it's in community that the maturing process goes on. You can pur-

sue the individualist line only so long as you've got other people to exploit. The third world is now close to the point where you can't push it any more, whether on environmental issues or whatever."

At the base of human relationships, Thomson says, is the family – again a familiar Blair preoccupation. But here, there is something different. "The family is not an issue of kin and blood. That's part of it, but I'm talking about families which exist because their members will it to be so, where people are bound together by a sense of belonging and love."

Three hours after I arrive, Thomson is still going at it hammer and tong: politics, ethics, family genetics, history, and, when the tape recorder is off, gossip of a passionate sort. Tony Blair might have ditched the Afghan coat, but he hasn't got rid of the bloke who keeps you up half the night bending your ear.



Peter Thomson: Famous for having inspired the young Tony Blair towards an idea of Christian socialism

It's not difficult to imagine him straying across the border to N1 to offer Tony a piece of his mind

Melbourne as a suspected communist and out of a second, in Cambridge, for setting up a scrap-metal business to create jobs in his parish. He has been headmaster of one of Australia's top private schools, Timbortop, and worked in the family estate agency. He's a farmer and has read the TV news on Australia's Channel 7. Now, suddenly, he's here, as Vicar of St Luke's Holloway, that is if the visa comes through OK.

So what is he doing in Holloway? "I was just waiting for something like this to come up," he says. "When Tony became leader, things started to happen. I was getting calls from London from people asking me about our relationship and it just became very exciting. I wanted to be part of it. It sparked me up. So I talked to Tony and said that if I came to England I would want to be what I am, not to work directly in the political arena."

A few weeks ago, Blair called to say that he heard St Luke's was looking for a vicar and would Peter like to be interviewed. He combined the trip with a visit to his publisher, about a planned book with the working title *Community*, and



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## Jail drug tests bring rise in heroin abuse

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

The Prison Service is investigating reports that prisoners are taking cocaine and heroin instead of cannabis in an attempt to beat drug tests.

The official inquiry follows claims from inmates, inspectors and guards, that the switch was taking place because traces of cannabis can remain in the bloodstream for up to a month, compared with a few days for the harder narcotics.

The latest claims about the trend towards harder drugs in jails are made today in a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

The inspectorate visited Wayland Prison, a low-security category C jail in Norfolk, where they were told by inmates that heroin and crack cocaine use was increasing because of the mandatory tests.

Since March, all prisons in England and Wales have been testing for drugs. Ten per cent of the inmates are tested each

month. Anyone who tests positive, or refuses to take a test, is punished with loss of privileges and offered a place on a rehabilitation unit.

Wayland was one of the eight pilot prisons chosen for the introduction of mandatory drug-testing programme, which has gradually been introduced across the country since last July as part of a government anti-drugs initiative.

On average, 36 per cent of the inmates tested prove positive. About 90 per cent took cannabis and the remainder a mixture of heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and tranquillisers.

At Wayland, 36 per cent of the 523 prisoners tested were positive. Inmates told the inspectors that drugs remained in the urine for different periods: 30 days for chronic cannabis use and three days for opiates, such as heroin.

"Prisoners had told us that they were aware of these periods, and the use of opiates and crack was therefore increasing," the report states.

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edited by David Lister

## Guardians of the Tower dig for moat's treasures



Digging has reached Victorian levels – and clay pipes

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

For the first time in 700 years, the Tower of London's moat is being excavated to determine what treasures lie buried beneath its innocent grassy surface. Every year 2.5 million visitors and tourists walk the drawbridge over the vast moat to enter the one of the world's most famous monuments. Few ponder on the waters which formerly lay beneath the walls.

Yet the moat was only filled in the mid-19th century, by order of the Duke of Wellington. By then it had dwindled to a brackish ditch, partly thanks to the slops and rubbish thrown in over the centuries.

The infill work was carried out with Victorian precision, but the engineers did not investigate for archaeological remains.

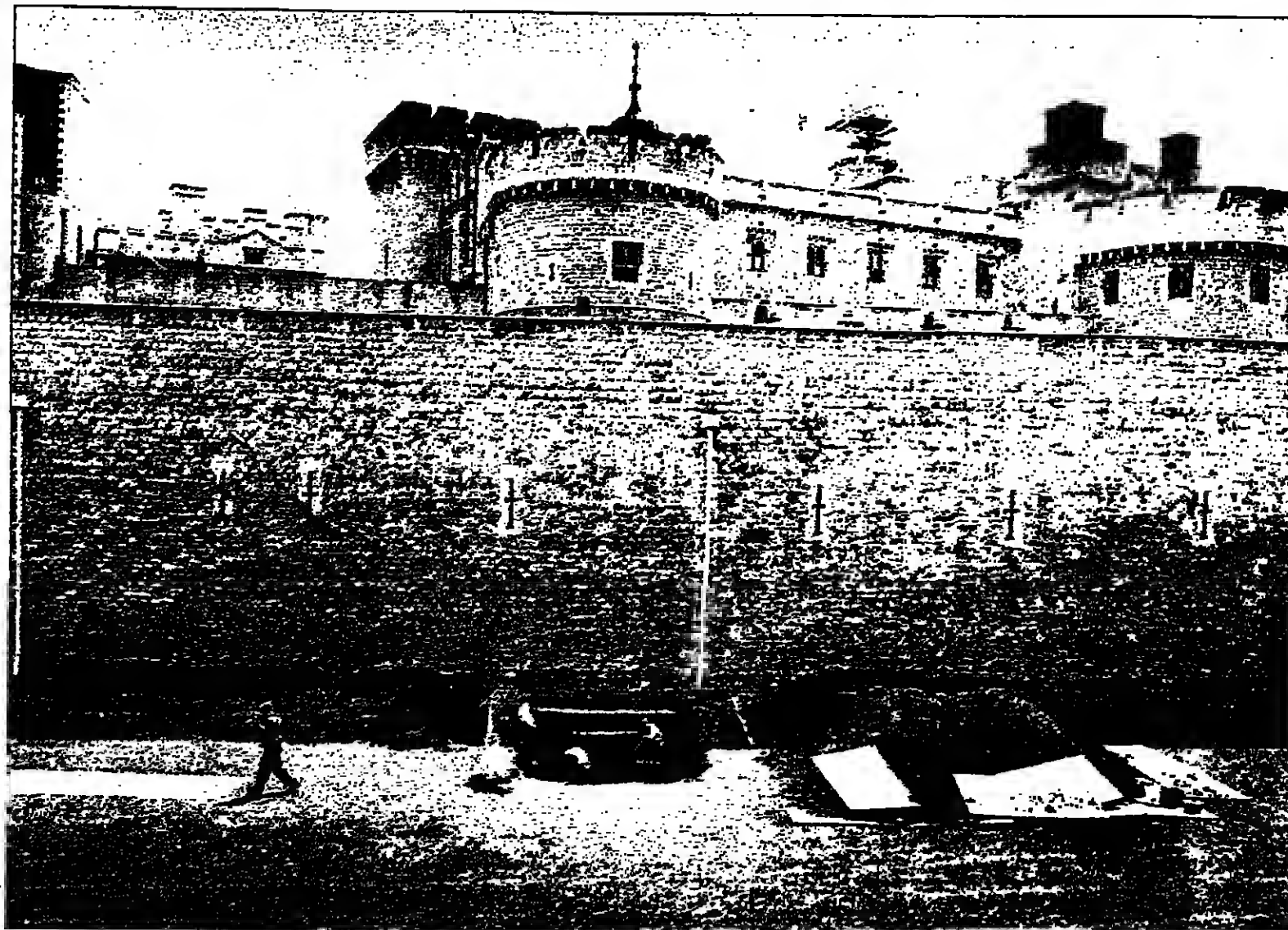
Last week experts began the first excavations since the Tower

er was built in the 11th century, and the moat 200 years later. Initially, three evaluation trenches have been dug, but by the end of the summer 18 points in the moat will have been investigated using remote sensors.

The project is part of the Tower Environs Scheme, jointly run by the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Port of London Authority and Taylor Woodrow property company.

Last September the scheme was awarded £500,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund after presenting a plan to improve the area surrounding the Tower and reflood the moat. As a result of the excavations the Historic Royal Palaces, which runs the Tower, will know by the end of the summer whether reflooding is possible. If so, it is hoped the work can be finished by 2000.

An exciting spin-off of the project is that archaeologists will



In search of history: Archaeologists yesterday at one of the first three trenches dug in the moat of the Tower of London Photographs: John Voos

be able to unearth the moat's centuries-old treasure. Dr Simon Thurley, curator of the Historic Royal Palaces, said yesterday that artefacts could include

swords, rifles, even cannons, and jewellery.

"It's very uncertain what we will find, although one should remember that until the late

18th century the moat would have been regularly sluiced and cleaned. So it is reasonably unlikely we'll find much medieval stuff. It's more likely to come

from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries," he said.

Dr Thurley added that while a parade of disgraced nobles, clergy and queens were brought

by barge via Traitor's Gate for execution at the Tower, their journey would only have involved crossing six feet of water, across the moat.

## Award for Take That writer

DAVID LISTER

Take That, hitherto the idols of the pubescent record buyers, came of age yesterday as their songwriter Gary Barlow was feted at the Ivor Novello Awards, the major international award for popular music composers.

The 25-year-old multi-millionaire singer-songwriter of the group, which split up earlier this year, won the Most Performed Work Award and Best Selling Song Title for his internationally successful hit "Back For Good".

Also victorious was Noel Gallagher from Oasis, who shared the Songwriter of the Year title with arch-rivals Blur at the Grosvenor Park Hotel, London. Gallagher and singer-songwriter Damon Albarn of Blur were not there to accept the awards from the lyricist Sir Tim Rice.

Also absent was the US-based singer Seal, who won the International Hit of the Year Award for "Kiss From a Rose".

Gallagher's snub amused Sir Tim, who said: "I am going to accept Noel's award and if he wants it he's bloody well going to have to come and get it."

However, many industry sources felt that Gallagher was right to resent the Ivor Novello Awards for involving an internationally respected award in the Blur/Oasis publicity battle.

## Photo failures expose tensions at royal college

ANGELA PHILLIPS

There will be four blank spaces on the wall when the Royal College of Art opens its centenary exhibition next week – representing a quarter of the photography course who have failed to satisfy the examiners.

Students are up in arms about an unprecedented number of failures and re-sits on this year's Master of Arts in Photography. In a dispute that seems to have its roots in the battle between art and craft traditions they have called for the resignation of the head of department and called into question the position of the external assessor, Michael Collins, a former *Daily Telegraph* picture editor.

A student, who preferred not to be named, said: "The suitability of the external assessor was raised last year with the head of department. He is a picture editor. We didn't believe that he would be able to judge fine art."

The College Provost, Lord Snowden, responded diplomatically, saying: "All exams are open to pass and failure. You can't have exams if you have a rule that nobody fails. I speak as someone who failed my architecture exams."

Two years ago, the department moved out from under the wing of advertising photographer John Hedgecoe into the choppy waters of the fine art department. Conceptual artist/photographer Peter Kennard was appointed senior lecturer.

Students were told: "Our admissions procedure is such that you were chosen as one of a team of photographers spanning a broad spectrum of ideas, interests and approaches – from reporters through to visionaries." Now some at the more visionary end of the spectrum are being told that their two years of hard work and financial sacrifice have been wasted.

Zelda Cheate, of the Zelda

Cheate Gallery, which specialises in fine art photography, was invited by the college to give personal tutorials to all the students after their assessment. She was shocked at the marks which were apparently revised upwards during the examiners' meeting to prevent even more failures. "You do not fail students at the final hour, of the final assessments, after two years of diligent hard work," she said. "If their work wasn't up to standard they should have been warned. Yet Michael Collins had actively supported and encouraged students at their pre-assessment. Personally, I would have passed all of them."



Lord Snowden: 'All exams are open to pass and failure'

Mr Collins insists that the decision to fail and refer students was arrived at collectively, but, the head of department, Michael Langford, who took over from Mr Hedgecoe two years ago, made it clear that he was "shocked and upset" by the unusual number of failures. Mr Kennard would say only: "I fully support my students."

Mr Langford could very easily be seen as a part of the old school of craft photographers. He is the author of a number

of respected textbooks on the technical aspects of photography but he insists that the move towards fine art was welcomed within the department.

As for Mr Collins, he was so keen on the new direction that he apparently applied for the job of senior lecturer himself. When he was pipped at the post by Mr Kennard, Mr Langford said: "I wondered whether the college felt he would be de-barred from continuing as the external assessor, but Michael was supportive of Peter Kennard coming here." Then he added: "Mind you, I don't know what the situation is at the moment."

Mr Collins declined to comment on individual staff members but seems to have changed his mind about the course itself. He said: "All of the students have suffered because the course, and the faculty, are sub-standard. Traditionally the photography course rubber stamps MAs which is disrespectful to individual students and perpetuates an inadequate MA course."

Ms Cheate disagrees: "What is good about the RCA course is the freedom and flexibility students have to create and every single year excellent students come out. Peter Kennard had done an amazingly good job in the short time he has been there. His influence is just beginning to filter through. The new group, which he has recruited, are an amazing bunch. The passion and enthusiasm he brings to the course is magnificent."

There will be a new assessor next year because Mr Collins has come to the end of his term. Mr Langford feels that the new assessor should be "someone with practical experience, as well as knowledge of art schools, who would empathise with the students", hastening to add, "not that that is a criticism of the existing one of course."

The students are awaiting the result of the appeal against their marks.

## DAILY POEM

### 'Madam'

By Christopher Logue

Madam  
I have sold you  
an electric plug  
an electric torch  
an electric blanket  
an electric bell  
an electric cooker  
an electric kettle  
an electric fan  
an electric iron  
an electric drier  
an electric mixer  
an electric washer  
an electric knife  
an electric clock  
an electric fire

an electric toothbrush  
an electric razor  
an electric lamp  
an electric eye  
and electric light.  
Allow me to sell you  
an electric chair.

The publication in May of Christopher Logue's *Selected Poems* (Faber, £7.99) mark the culmination of a long and disparate career as soldier, political activist, actor and screenplay writer, librettist and poem poster originator. There is a fantastic, bawdy, sea-shanty strain that runs through Logue's work, an absence of curmudgeon and such a barefaced honesty that he is impossible to resist. One of Faber's triumphs, and if you purchase one poetry book this summer, this should be it.

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10  
international

**Czech polls: Vaclav Klaus, a pragmatic right winger, is keeping his country on the free market path**

# Thatcher's man in Prague set for second term

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Prague

"What is the difference between God and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus?" runs an old joke in Prague. "God does not believe he is Klaus."

Mr Klaus no doubt smiles whenever he hears it. Not a man given to belittling his own achievements, he likes to take much of the credit for what has undoubtedly been the great success story of the economic transition in the Czech Republic over the past six years.

Only slightly tongue in cheek, he saw fit last year to publish his own version of "The Ten Commandments" - the dos and don'ts of how to go about replacing clapped-out communist economies with the free market.

He is now poised to do something even more miraculous: to halt the regional trend towards the return of former communists by becoming the first right-

wing politician from the former east European bloc to win a second term of office.

According to opinion polls, Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) is set to re-emerge as the largest party in the country's two-day general election beginning today. With the help of two similarly right-of-centre coalition partners, he should then be in a position to form the next government.

In a Czech variation of the "You've never had it so good" theme, posters advertising the ODS cause depict 20, 50 and 100 crown notes being withdrawn from a wallet: testimony to the country's newly generated wealth and the strength of its now fully convertible currency.

"We've shown we can do it," runs the campaign slogan. And with economic growth set to reach 5 per cent this year, inflation down to 8 per cent and unemployment still below 3 per cent, many Czechs agree.

"Just look at everything you see around you," said Marie Formanova, a cook, pointing to the renovated buildings, brand name stores and commercial activity throughout central Prague. "I personally am not a great fan of Klaus - he is far too arrogant - but would all this have happened without him?"

For all his talk of hard-line monetarism - Mr Klaus makes no secret of his admiration for the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher - he has made sure that Czechs have been spared some of the hardships of transition suffered elsewhere in the region.

Flying in the face of his own professed beliefs, Mr Klaus, an economist during the communist era, has kept unprofitable factories open, maintained rent controls and kept energy prices low. He has also caved in to wage demands from public sector workers.

"Mr Klaus may describe him-



Crossing the divide: Advertising hoardings for the Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus in a Prague street

Photograph: Petr Jasek/Reuters

self as a Thatcherite but in reality he is a pragmatist," said Jiri Pehe, research director at Prague's Open Media Research Institute. "He has shown that he can suspend the economic reform process if he sees it is threatening political stability. Hence the absence here of a strong left-wing backlash."

With the Prime Minister championing capitalism with a human face, the opposition Social Democrats (CSSD), have struggled to latch on to a cause - particularly as they do not disagree with the fundamental direction the country is taking. Much of their campaign has centred on calls to stamp out the

corruption they say is prevalent among the current ruling elite. But while they would undoubtedly seek more emphasis on social policies, they would not reverse reforms or go back on the twin goals of Nato and European Union membership. Apart from the right-wing, anti-gypsy Republican Party,

the only real opposition to Mr Klaus comes from the communists, a party that clings tenaciously to much of its old ideology. But although polls show the communists can expect just over 11 per cent of the vote, most Czechs recoil with horror at the thought of the party.

"Unlike elsewhere in the region, there is no nostalgia for the communist regime here," said Mr Pehe. "In Hungary and Poland, the last years of communism saw real reforms. Here, we had 1968 and then 20 years of darkness. Even if the communists here said they had reformed, Czechs would not trust them."

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**India's elections ended yesterday when Kashmiris voted in Srinagar.** Security forces fired tear gas and warning shots to break up demonstrations by Kashmiri Muslim militants who had urged a boycott of the polls. Officials said voter turnout was 37 per cent, but eyewitnesses contacted by the *Independent* in Srinagar claimed that in some neighbourhoods of the city, security forces used coercion to drive Kashmiris to the polling booths. Several Indian journalists said they were beaten with rifle butts by members of the Border Security Force while trying to stop an officer from dragging a woman out of her home.

Muslim separatists exploded six rockets and grenades around the troubled city to scare away voters. Caught between the intimidation of Indian security forces on one side and the threats of Muslim separatists on the other, many Kashmiris who went to the polls claimed they deliberately spoiled their ballots by voting for all candidates. *Tim McGirk - New Delhi*

**The bodies of seven French monks killed by their kidnappers have been found in Algeria** near the town where they were held, France's Foreign Ministry said. The Armed Islamic Group, known as the GIA, said last week it had beheaded the seven monks it kidnapped from their isolated monastery two months earlier because France had refused to free jailed Algerian militants. More than 40,000 people have been killed in Algeria's civil war. *AP - Paris*

**Three US Air Force commanders in Europe were relieved of duty** as a result of an investigation of the jetliner crash in Croatia last month that killed the Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others. The Air Force announced that Major General Charles Heflebower, commander of the 17th Air Force, has "lost his confidence in the ability" of the men to "effectively discharge their responsibilities". The three are the top three officers of the 86th Airlift Wing, based at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. *AP - Washington*

**Burma's military rulers stepped up denunciations of** foreign interference in the country and continued verbal and written attacks on the democracy movement led by Aung San Suu Kyi. The government ran slogans in newspapers and on scrolling headlines on television, including "Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the state", "Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy" and "Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views".

A commentary carried in all official newspapers renewed an attack on the Voice of America and BBC, both of which broadcast daily Burmese-language news programmes. *Reuters - Rangoon*

**A German court said it had rejected the claim of a cat** owner who wanted the state to pay for the care of his pet while he was away at a health spa. Germans can claim back many expenses if their stay at a spa is prescribed by a doctor, but the government is trying to slash welfare spending by cutting down on such stays and obliging workers to take health cures in holiday time. *Reuters - Berlin*

**The conviction of Heidi Fleiss, the "Hollywood Madam", for pandering** has been overturned by a state appeals court which ruled that jurors engaged in vote-swapping misconduct to avoid a deadlock. "The jurors involved in this misconduct committed a transgression worse than those with which Fleiss was charged," Justice Reuben Ortega wrote for the three-judge panel. "Those jurors turned this serious proceeding into a farce." Ms Fleiss, 30, faced a three-year prison term over the pandering charges. *AP - Hollywood*

**A Buddhist monk who murdered a British tourist,** Joanne Mashedier, from Cheshire, in December while she was visiting a temple, will have his death sentence commuted to life in prison as part of a mass royal reprieve for 70,000 convicts. The decree demonstrating royal mercy will be handed down on 9 June by King Bhumibol Adulyadej as part of massive ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of his accession to the throne of Thailand. *AP - Bangkok*

**In a dig at the Communists, Boris Yeltsin's supporters** in south-eastern Siberia are offering 1 million roubles (£130) for the person with the most Soviet-era ration coupons. Campaign organisers in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat republic, 2,500 miles south-east of Moscow, say they want to remind voters about how they lived when the Communists were in power. One of Mr Yeltsin's main campaign tactics is to frighten the electorate into voting for him as the best defence against the return of the Communists. *AP - Ulan Ude*

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The elections which gave the Democratic Party victory have been condemned by observers, writes **Andrew Gumbel**

## Europe turns a blind eye to Albanian poll

Tirana

European governments have decided to turn a blind eye to reports of systematic vote-rigging in Albania's general election and in effect endorse the overwhelming but almost certainly fraudulent victory claimed by President Sali Berisha and his Democratic Party.

The elections were boycotted by all but one opposition party and roundly condemned by international observers, the foreign media, and human rights groups. The chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti, yesterday spoke of "serious irregularities" and called for at least part of the election to be repeated.

But EU diplomats contacted in Tirana made clear that their countries would accept the election results with little more than a flicker of reluctance, preferring to safeguard their economic and strategic interests in Albania rather than speak out against abuses of human rights and due democratic process.

"Things are on course to

continue. The second round of the election will take place on Sunday and the new parliament will assemble," one senior European diplomat said. "I don't think it would be helpful to do anything over-hasty. The Albanian people would not be served if we bring them turmoil, as we surely would if we criticise this election."

The diplomat sidestepped the criticisms aired by election observers, saying European governments would not react to the evidence of fraud until the OSCE published its final report in two weeks' time.

Many European countries, notably Italy and Germany, but Britain too, have been uncritical admirers of Mr Berisha for the past four years despite clear signs of growing authoritarianism. In recent months it has become an ever more unholo ally - Mr Berisha providing stability in his corner of the Balkans and slowly opening up foreign investment opportunities, and in return Europe doing nothing to stop him seizing control of the judiciary and cracking down on the opposition and the press.

Such indulgence has not been shared by the United States, which started out as an active Berisha fan but has gradually become more ambivalent. Yesterday, according to diplomats, Washington was considering whether to pull the plug on some of its aid and co-operation projects in Albania. A decision is expected next week.

According to opposition leaders and some foreign observers, it was Europe's support that emboldened Mr Berisha into thinking he could get away with rigging the election. When the polling clearly went awry, and especially after police brutally broke up a peaceful opposition rally on Tuesday, European governments became acutely embarrassed and hinted that they might at last take some concrete action.

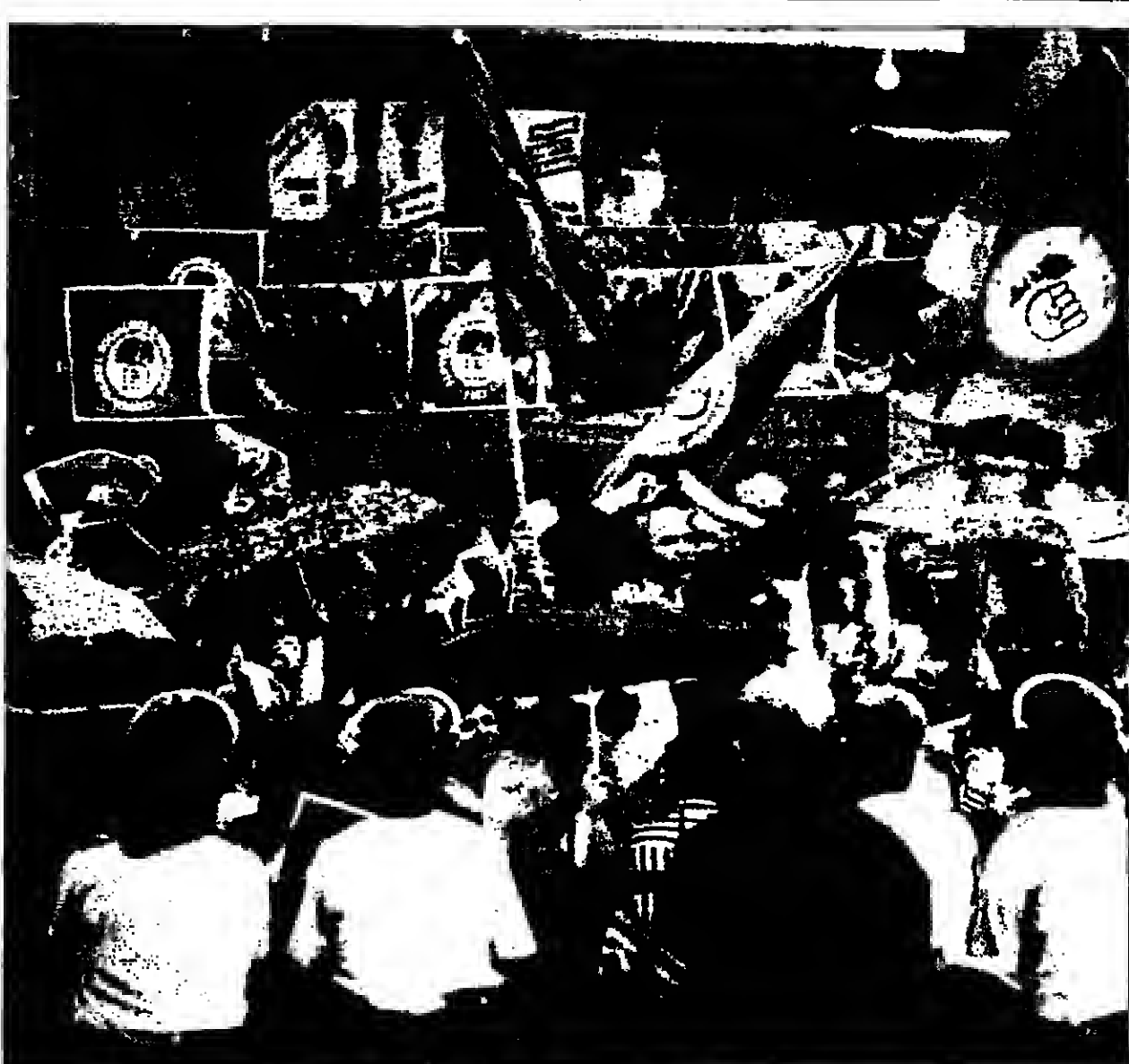
But that embarrassment appears to have faded with remarkable speed, helped by a presidential statement on Wednesday night promising to launch a full investigation into Tuesday's rally and ordering a re-run of the election in three constituencies where the manipulation was most blatant -

scarcely enough to right the wrongs committed, but a gesture to save faces all round.

An EU ambassador yesterday described the opposition as "irresponsible" for protesting against the election publicly and suggested everyone "take a deep breath and calm down". Britain's chief interests are in oil exploration, financial services and construction, "all reasons to be pro-Berisha", according to one non-UK diplomatic source.

The failure of the international community to stand by democratic principles is having its effect on the ground. Albanians terrified by the presence of thugs with guns on the streets have not dared stage public protests of any great size, although there have been some clashes with police in opposition strongholds in the south.

Moreover, there are signs that Mr Berisha is planning to offer the opposition some extra seats in parliament, and that the opposition might accept. So far, 95 of the 140 seats have gone to the Democratic Party, five to the Socialist Party, and two to the Ethnic Greeks, with 38 to be announced.



Riot police watch demonstrators in Skandberg Square, Tirana, who were demanding that this week's Albanian elections be re-run. The police later beat and injured several of the protesters. Photograph: AP

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## Peking's firm friend launches bid to run HK

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

Some Hong Kong people think he is mad, some think he's merely bad, while others see him as something of a genius. Few have a neutral view of Lo Tak-shing, 61, the first person to declare his candidature for the post of Chief Executive, or head of government, in the post-colonial administration.

Until recently, the hot money for the appointment had been on the shipping magnate Tung Chee-hwa, but there are signs Mr Tung is getting cold feet. No sooner were these views made public than Mr Lo jumped into the breach, declaring the need for the Chief Executive to be a hard-liner who would be firm in carrying out the government's policies.

Few people doubt Mr Lo is a hard-liner. He has been among the most hawkish of the Chinese government's Hong Kong advisers and has established a weekly news magazine to spread his robust views on how to establish the new order.

However, Chinese leaders may best remember him for the way he rushed to Peking after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre to offer support. His detractors describe Mr Lo as a yes man. This claim is hard to substantiate, as became clear in the aftermath of the 1982 Sino-British negotiations, which led to the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty.

After the treaty ratifying the deal was signed in 1984, Mr Lo walked out of the Executive Council, the Governor's cabinet, accusing Britain of betraying the people of Hong Kong. He even set up a company to provide cash for those wanting to emigrate.

Mr Lo then retreated briefly to the background, only to emerge with a passionate commitment to the incoming Chinese regime. His commitment is so absolute that he has acquired a Chinese passport in order to fully identify with the motherland. The fact that Hong Kong people are not supposed to carry Chinese passports has been brushed aside, even though there are suggestions it was improperly acquired.

The passport, like Mr Lo's new found mastery of Mandarin, and his assiduous cultivation of Chinese leaders, are only the outward signs of his conversion. When China was first thinking about the post of Chief Executive, President Jiang Zemin said to enjoy mass support. Reports in Hong Kong say the Communist Party has circulated an internal document saying such support is no longer a criteria; Peking wants someone who can get along with the business community and civil servants and who can be trusted by the central government.

But can Mr Lo be trusted? Wang Wanfang, a former senior Chinese official in Hong Kong, has publicly expressed serious doubts about Mr Lo, whom he accused of adopting "an orthodox and devious approach". In fact Mr Lo is not devious. He operates like a street fighter when tackling his enemies and, unlike them, is prepared to put himself under the spotlight to attract attention.

A few months ago few people thought Mr Lo was a contender for the top job. Now he is. This says more about the way Chinese thinking has changed, than it does about Mr Lo.

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Even though the grand prix season has started, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes for each race.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category. Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

### HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a

top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

● The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.

● Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.

● Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.

● If your driver makes the quickest pit-stop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.

● If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.

● If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.

● If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.

● The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.

● Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost.

● Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.

● Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.

● Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.



### DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

### SPANISH GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the Spanish Grand Prix will win a pair of tickets to Silverstone to see the British Grand Prix in July. Your three day tickets allow you and a partner to see untimed practice, the qualifying session and the race itself.

### HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805.

You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship?

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods.

Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

### CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

### Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times), with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.

2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.

3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.

4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.

5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.

6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.

7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.

8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.

9. For full PIN numbers, call 0891 891 808. Helpline: 01275 344183.

10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

## Make your selection from the Grand Prix Shopping List

DRIVERS	£5m	£1m	CHASSIS	£3m	ENGINE	£12m
1 M Schumacher	13 M Salo	28 M Blundell*	40 Benetton	49 Minardi	51 Renault	54 Peugeot
2 J Alesi	14 P Larry	29 J-C Boulton*	41 Williams	50 Forti	52 Ferrari	55 Mugen
3 D Hill	15 P Diniz	30 K Brack*	42 Ferrari		53 Mercedes	56 Ford
4 G Berger	16 U Katayama	31 K Burt*	43 McLaren			57 Yamaha
5 D Coulthard	17 J Verstappen	32 E Collard*	44 Sauber			58 Hart
6 E Irvine	18 O Panis	33 N Fontana*	45 Jordan			59 Ford
7 J Villeneuve	19 L Badoer	34 D Franchitti*	46 Ligier			60 Ford ED
8 M Hakkinen	20 R Rosset	35 N Larini*	47 Tyrrell			
9 H H Frenzen	21 A Montemini	36 J Magnussen*	48 Arrows			
10 M Brundage	22 G Fisichella	37 A Prost*				
11 R Barrichello	23 V Sospin*	38 G Tarquini*				
12 J Herbert	24 T Marques*	39 K Wendlinger*				
	25 F Lagorce*					
	26 H Noda*					
	27 T Inoue*					

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805 ENTER TODAY

● TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806  
● RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS LINE: 0891 891 807



# Knife-edge vote leaves the world

## Netanyahu on course to lead right to power

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

The turning point came at 2am. The early exit polls showed a lead for the Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, of a shade more than 1 per cent over Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader. In the Labour headquarters in Tel Aviv young members of the party waved their hands and chanted: "Hoo-ha, what happened, Bibi's blown it!"

In their headquarters depressed Likud supporters also believed "Bibi had blown it". One observer reported: "There is no clapping, a few of the young people at the back tried to shout 'Bibi, Bibi', but the politicians are standing at the



Peres: Called election too late

front with impassive faces. I can see a woman crying."

In the next few hours a number of Likud politicians may have permanently damaged their careers by premature criticism of Mr Netanyahu. "Do you think he should go home?" one Likud member of the Knesset was asked. "That's for him to decide," replied the politician. At the same moment some of Israel's better-known columnists were writing Mr Netanyahu's obituary.

Then Israeli television channel one announced a new

forecast poll, saying that Mr Peres and Mr Netanyahu were running neck and neck at 50 per cent each. It said a transfer of power was quite possible. The pollsters blamed the ultra-Orthodox for misleading their pollsters. In the neighbourhood from which Yitzhak Amir, the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, comes, there was a blanket refusal to take part in exit polls.

Israel gradually began to realise Mr Netanyahu might have won after all. Out of 3.9 million votes he has a lead of only 20,000 and the postal votes of 154,000 soldiers, hospital patients, seamen, prisoners and diplomats have still not been counted.

Soldiers are much the biggest group and they have traditionally voted for the right. Leah Rabin, the widow of the murdered prime minister, said: "I am looking at where I keep my suitcases, and I feel like packing my bags and flying away from here as quickly as possible. In my opinion, if a mistake was made, it was that not enough use was made of the terrible murder."

Many Labour supporters will agree. Mr Peres did not call an election after the murder, or use the wave of revulsion against the right. He seemed determined to win an election on his own merits. With the polls in his favour, he called an election six months early, but then saw his popularity plummet as four suicide bombers killed 59 people in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv. In the final television debate last Sunday, which may have determined the outcome, Mr Netanyahu asked why Israelis "were afraid of letting their children ride on a bus?"

What will Mr Netanyahu do now? He will have little difficulty forming a government. Although Likud lost seats he has potential allies in the newly emergent Russian immigrant party of Natan Sharansky and the religious parties, which had a triumphant night. The Arah parties did well, but the most im-



Facing defeat: A downcast Labour supporter with a poster of Mr Peres being consoled at party headquarters after hearing Netanyahu was in the lead

Photograph: AP

portance change was the strengthening of the right in the Knesset. At the same time, the extreme right, notably the Molodet party, which advocates expelling the Palestinians, did less well.

Mr Netanyahu's programme is well known. He is against the Oslo accords but will not reverse them. He will not evacuate Hebron, the Palestinian city in which Israeli settlers live. He will close Orient House, the Palestinians' political headquarters in East Jerusalem.

He says he will insist that the Palestinians "live up to their obligations" under Oslo. He has called for a reconvening of the Madrid conference of 1991, attended by Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Jordan. He says he will not talk to the Palestinians about the future of Jerusalem.

It is doubtful if Mr Netanyahu will go much farther at this stage. He may even try to show that he does not want confrontation with the Palestinians by allowing them to resume

working in Israel. Palestinian political leaders are aghast at what has happened, but this is partly a result of their earlier over-optimism.

Even if Mr Peres had won, he would not have had the majority in the Knesset he needed to move to the next, and most contentious, stage of the Oslo process. He would have been accused of relying on Arab votes. One of his supporters said yesterday: "He would have needed a brigade of bodyguards to defend him."

Mr Netanyahu has two scores to settle after the election. The first is with the Israeli Arabs who voted largely for Mr Peres.

They might have put him into the lead, but for the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon. According to one report, they cast about 80,000 blank ballot papers in the election for the prime minister, which would have been enough to save Mr Peres. If this turns out to be true then he will have paid high price for Operation Grapes of Wrath last month.

The second score for Mr Netanyahu to settle is with President Bill Clinton, who made little effort to conceal his preference for Mr Peres. It is possible that Mr Netanyahu will covertly try to persuade American Jews to withdraw support for Mr Clinton in his re-election bid in November. On the other hand, Mr Netanyahu will probably not want to start a feud with the US in which he will lose more than he can gain.

Mr Netanyahu has pledged not to give up the Golan Heights. This rules out any serious negotiations with Syria over a full peace treaty, though he says that he wants to normalise relations. One of the problems which Mr Netanyahu will face on taking power was underlined yesterday when two Israeli soldiers were killed and five wounded by a roadside bomb in southern Lebanon. They were the first Israeli soldiers to be killed by Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla movement, since the Israeli bombardment in April.

## Hamas and settlers breathe sigh of relief

STEPHANIE NOLEN  
Hebron

"Hamas is happy about this. And no one else cares." Osama Naimonch, 22, unemployed and cynical far beyond his years, gestures down his crowded street in this Israeli-occupied West Bank city.

"You will meet a few people here who support Hamas and who are glad today because they think this will be the end of co-operation between Israel and the Palestinians. The end of the peace process."

"But most people - well, Peres, Netanyahu, they are the same thing for us. Neither of them is ever going to do any-

thing for Hebron, or for the Palestinians."

In Hebron and elsewhere in the West Bank, the news of Binyamin Netanyahu's victory in the Israeli election was met largely with a lack of interest from the people who might be thought to have most to lose.

"There are Israeli settlers living in our town, there is a closure so no one can work, our land is being taken to build more roads for the settlers, and all of this happened under a Labour Government," said Mohammed Abu Samounch, 25, a labourer. He has not been to his job inside Israel since a tightened closure was placed on the Palestinian territories,

following a string of suicide attacks three months ago. "What do we care if there is Labour or Likud? Things never get better here."

His neighbour, Faisal Abu Eyshe, said Mr Netanyahu might be an improvement from a Palestinian perspective.

"Netanyahu tells the truth, we know where we stand with him. He speaks straight, not like Peres, who talks about peace and then keeps building settlements."

Mr Abu Eyshe, also an out-of-work labourer, speculated that a Likud government might ease the closure, because "they understand capitalism, better than the Socialists in Labour,

and they know it is better for them if we are working in Israel."

The only people in Hebron who displayed much emotion about the election results were 200 Israeli settlers who live, heavily guarded, in the heart of the town.

"We're ecstatic, because finally it has proven that we are not just 40 families, living here, but we represent all the Jewish people," said Shani Horowitz.

"We were against Rabin, against Peres, against the Oslo peace process, against giving away Hebron, and now, thank God, we have a leader elected by the Jewish vote who will keep this land for the Jews."

It is the implications of this Jewish vote which are significant for Palestinians, says political analyst Ghassan Khatib.

The apathy with which West Bankers greeted the election result is only to be expected: what can people imagine worse than this closure? How in practical terms could Mr Netanyahu's government be worse for Palestinians than Labour has been?

But Mr Khatib, who was part of the Palestinian delegation to both the Washington and Madrid peace talks, said that the election results have worrying long-term implications for Palestinians.

"The possibility of progress

in this peace process in the next four years is much less than over the previous four years," he said.

He noted that Likud may postpone indefinitely the implementation of already delayed parts of the Israeli/PLO peace deal, such as military withdrawal from Hebron. Any compromise on the issue of Jerusalem looks unlikely.

"The worst news for us is not that Netanyahu won and Peres lost. It's that the results show a political shift in Jewish Israel to the right, to the extreme right, to hard-line politics. It shows Israel is a country of people who want to have their cake and eat it, a country not politically mature enough for peace."

## Soldiers' votes still to be counted

STEPHANIE NOLEN

Who are they, these 154,000 people whose votes remain uncounted in the painfully close Israeli election, where Binyamin Netanyahu's lead now stands at 20,000?

Prisoners, patients and soldiers - none of them likely to save Shimon Peres.

"The bulk of those votes are from soldiers, stationed away from their homes, in Lebanon for example," one Israeli source explained. The exact number of soldiers' votes is not released, for security reasons. But, the source added: "It's worth noting that the army generally

votes to the right of the general population."

Among the few thousand ballots of prisoners awaiting counting is, presumably, that of Yigal Amir, sentenced to life for the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, last November.

The rest of the ballots come from a few thousand people hospitalised on voting day, from 200 sailors, and from "a few thousand" Israelis working overseas, as diplomats and representatives of Israeli industries. But the race is not yet over. Israel has a conscript army, randomly recruited, and their voting habits may be split, just like the nation itself.



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# uncertain of prospect for peace



Waste paper: A man marches over a mass of election posters and leaflets covering the street outside the Likud party headquarters in Jerusalem

Photograph: AP

## 'Peres doomed Qana, so Qana doomed Peres'

The Arabs view Netanyahu's victory with despondency and even fear, writes **Robert Fisk**

Back in the States, they made a film about the superpowers' attempt to prevent planet Earth colliding with the sun. Based around the newsroom of the old *Daily Express*, it ended with the paper's printers setting two front page headlines. One said "World Saved". The other announced: "World Doomed".

Like the rest of us, the Arabs were led to believe that only the re-election of Mr Peres, Nobel Peace Prize winner and instigator of the bloody Operation Grapes of Wrath, could bring peace to the Middle East. The election of Mr Netanyahu meant "World Doomed". And that is how it must have felt for Messrs Arafat and Mubarak and King Hussein when they woke up yesterday morning. Suddenly, the Middle East had moved from its axis and all those who had been cajoled or lulled into the American-Israeli "peace process" found their world spinning out of control, moving inexorably into a far more dangerous trajectory.

What was supposed to have been signed, sealed and delivered on the White House lawn turned out to be just another piece of paper.

Such was the degree of cynicism towards the peace process that many Arabs responded yesterday with little more than despondency. "The West told us that we had to make peace with Israel," a Lebanese journalist remarked. "We were ordered to sign up for peace - or else. So the Arabs signed up for peace and then Israel held an election. And now we're told 'tough luck' - the Israelis can change the rules. No doubt we'll be told to trust America again while being forced to make more concessions."

But the fruits of the Israeli election are going to produce more than sarcasm. As Sabell Nator put it in his dingy Palestinian "Democratic Front" office in Beirut's Mar Elias camp yesterday, Mr Netanyahu's victory could prove literally explosive. "Those Arab regimes who made the agreement with Israel - Egypt, Jordan, the PLO - are cornered; they have to explain the fruits of this illusory peace to their people. How can they do that? And those other regimes who hurried under the American umbrella to make ties with Israel - Qatar, Oman, Tunisia - and who jumped to give cards to Mr Peres, they find it's worth nothing. Arafat? He is finished. I can say that in Lebanon because Arafat cannot arrest me here."

Nor could Syria's silence yesterday dispel fears that a right-wing Israeli government which believes that "Arabs understand force" will try to steamroller Syria into peace at any price - even

war. For weeks, Washington's commentators have been telling their readers and President Clinton that Syria must be brought to heel.

"No troublemaker is more widely cultivated than President Assad," Stephen Rosenfeld wrote in the *Washington Post*. "... Syria is now a much-reduced power that remains ready to play the spoiler but seems unprepared for the heavy political lifting at home that it would take to fit it out for a serious peace initiative."



Arafat: Signed up for peace

Syria, it seems, is a "terrorist" state obstinately refusing peace because it wants the return of all of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Even Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan has been beating his tin drum, warning of pressures that may be brought to bear on Syria.

And it does not take much imagination to see how a new Israeli-American alliance could be engineered to isolate Syria, to attack "terrorist" camps inside Syria's frontiers. There are those, like the Lebanese journalist Jihad Zein, who believe there are "Likudists" among the Arab nations - he has named Syria and Saudi Arabia - which would in reality be happy to see four years of Netanyahu rule because they are not yet ready for normalisation with Israel. But this is more an attempt to deal with the "world doomed" headline than with political reality.

As another Lebanese writer observed, "the lie of the 'peace process' has been stripped away by Netanyahu's victory. Now we [will] find out how the Americans tell their people that Israel doesn't want its peace any more. And be sure of one thing: they will blame the Arabs."

At least one Lebanese prisoner of the Israelis, Jamal Mahroum, speculated that it was the Qana massacre - which revolted so many Israeli Arabs - that lost Shimon Peres his vital votes. "Peres doomed Qana, so Qana doomed Peres," he said with satisfaction.

## US vows that Oslo process will continue

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

Bitting back its disappointment at the apparent upset victory of the Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, in Wednesday's Israeli election, the United States yesterday vowed to press ahead with its search for peace in the Middle East, irrespective of who forms the new government in Jerusalem.

"Our policy will remain the same," President Bill Clinton said in a first reaction to the growing likelihood that the Labour party will be ousted from office. "If Israel is prepared to take risks for peace, we will do our best to reduce the risks and increase the security of those who do that."

Indeed, Mr Clinton noted that it was a Likud prime minister, Menachem Begin, who set in motion the peace process, inviting then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to address the Knesset in 1977, and two years later signing a peace treaty with Egypt, the first with one of Israel's Arab neighbours.

The President also claimed to

detect some softening of Mr Netanyahu's hardline approach at the close of the campaign. "We have to wait and see," he told reporters, but whatever the result, the US would continue its support for "the people of Israel and the process of peace".

Even so, a Netanyahu victory, implying renewed Jewish settlements on the West Bank and an uncompromising stance on the return of the Golan Heights to

Syria, will vastly complicate the US-sponsored peace process. For that reason, the Clinton administration had delivered everything short of a formal endorsement of Mr Peres.

So close will be the result, officials here say, that whoever wins will not be able to claim a mandate. But relations between the US and Israel are bound to worsen at least in the short term, if it is the Likud leader.

ADEL DARWISH

For the first time in half a century, Arab readers were treated to massive press coverage of an Israeli election.

The Palestinian press showed some division along Israeli political lines. Elsewhere, reactions were more confused.

An editorial in the Gaza-based Palestinian daily *Al-Hayat* said a Likud

victory with Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister would be better for the Palestinians since his policy would inevitably lead to "international isolation of Israel and pressures from the United States similar to the pressures that isolated (the last Likud prime minister Yitzhak) Shamir".

But the majority of Palestinian papers quoted the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat's call for

Israeli Arab voters "to side with the peace camp".

In much of the Arab press news gave way to commentary.

Commentators accused Israel of aggression, and took a cynical view of the election as a diversion from the suffering of the Palestinians. "Today, the Arabs study, examine and discuss the Israeli election results, as if there was a difference between Likud and Labour consideration of Arab lives," was the scornful comment of Jihad El Khazem, editor of *Al-Hayat*. "[Shimon] Peres is no different from Netanyahu," said a leader in the Qatari daily *Al-Orouba*, "they are two faces of the same Zionist coin".

Israel's partners in the peace process, who are bracing themselves to deal with Mr Netanyahu, had a more guarded reaction.

"Policies, not personalities, would decide the fate of the Middle East peace process," said a commentary on Cairo radio. The Jordanian paper *Al-Rai* said what mattered was the next Israeli government's commitment to continue the peace talks, regardless of the election results.

ing - for Israel, for the Middle East and for the whole world," Günter Verheugen, foreign-affairs spokesman for the German Social Democrats.

"The Zionist regime is expansionist and supports massacres by nature. Changing this regime's pawns does not result in so much change in (its) policies," Tehran radio.

"The situation is going to be a bit

more complex but we are not in a panic," Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

"Regardless of who will head Israel's government after the elections, the new Israeli leader should learn lessons of the past five years. Peace and occupation contradict each other and could never meet," *Al-Baath*, the official Syrian daily.

## Business as usual, says Clinton

"Whatever the results, the United States will continue its policy of support for the people of Israel, for the democratic process there and for the process of peace, and our policy will be the same. If Israel is prepared to take risks for peace, we are determined to do our best to reduce the risks and increase the security of those who do that," President Bill Clinton.

"A political catastrophe is in the off-

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# obituaries / gazette

## Jeremy Sinden

Jeremy Sinden was a chip off the old block: a bit of a buffoon, an able comedian, a stylish farceur, and a man of the theatre who did not disdain the bold touch, the emphatic gesture, and a sense of timing which took enough account of the audience sometimes to seem to outstate it.

This relish for the stage was in the blood. As Donald Sinden's elder son, Jeremy might have been tempted to take another theatrical tack since the risk of "odorous" comparisons was obvious. Certainly his parents, both actors, both aware of the ups and downs of the player's life, saw no reason for him to join their profession.

But young Jeremy wasn't going to be put off. He had seen glimpses of the good theatrical life—or rather the film star's life—for his father made a name in films long before the theatre—and would have a go.

That he should come to resemble his father in both looks and acting style, sharing a temperamental exuberance and a taste for the theatrical stance, was perhaps not surprising. What did surprise young Jeremy's well-wishers was that he showed every sign of becoming a player of quality in his own right.

It is true that father and son also shared a mannerism of gazing at the house as if to watch for its reaction rather than trusting to it. Like his father, Jeremy Sinden was accused more than once of playing to the audience rather than playing his part.

Nevertheless, young Jeremy, though showing no signs of the paternal range as either a comedian or tragedian, could sometimes be far funnier in his own right. This was perhaps owing to that rare ability to conceal his awareness that he was meant to be funny.

In other words he could keep a straight face not only physi-

cally, but psychologically. You could watch that visage for signs of inner amusement, for hints that he was also enjoying himself and they never, in my experience, came.

Behind the corpulent figure, the strong, dark eyes, the innocent glare, the huge head, and the tendency to strut about self-importantly was not the least intimation that we ought to giggle.

There are straight faces and straight faces in the theatre, and Jeremy Sinden knew how to keep his straighter than most. Never more so, of course, than as the absurdly vainglorious Toad in Jeremy Sinden's recent revival of Alan Bennett's version of *The Wind in the Willows* (Old Vic, 1996).

One has seen Toads of the old, self-preening sort prancing about the stage without making any kind of contact with the audience because they were trying so hard to raise laughter and had not Sinden's blessed capacity to seem so free of self-awareness. Others have been merely sympathetic or childish content to be jeered at; but Sinden's Toad almost touched the art in being ruled by his own shameless nature. He had no idea why we laughed.

There was not a trace of patronage in the performance or of condescension to the children. Sinden relished the character, not just the role; and we were bound to relish the performance in turn.

Two years ago at the National Theatre he had also been the making of (I believe) a revival of Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple*. Sinden played Major Swindon. You forget the part? It seldom makes enough impression for people to talk about; but at the time, Sinden's Toad almost touched the art in being ruled by his own shameless nature. He had no idea why we laughed.

There was not a trace of patronage in the performance or of condescension to the children. Sinden relished the character, not just the role; and we were bound to relish the performance in turn.

discipline and earnestness which proclaimed him a first-class character actor. The court-martial scene became worth seeing for itself alone.

There had been proof a couple of decades earlier of a natural-seeming talent for representing officers and gentlemen and scoundrels at the engaging English best. In a 69 Theatre Company revival from Manchester of R.C. Sherriff's famous slice of trench-life in the Great War, *Joan's End* (Mermaid and Cambridge, 1972), Sinden got his first West End part. It was Private Broughton. Imperfect casting perhaps for a former public school boy, but before the run ended he got the chance to play Captain Stanhope (Laurence Olivier's old role in the original Sunday try-out).

This taught him perhaps how little he really knew about emotional acting. At any rate, though he found himself in the leading role, it had been agreed that he would go (at last) to drama school, and so he went.

His love of the stage (financed as for so many actors by television appearances) came out most forcibly in the 1980s when he and his wife—the actress Delia Lindsay—formed a classical touring company which revived, with some success, Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*.

This reached the Westminster Theatre with Sinden, foppish enough, in what was seen as the Oscar Wilde role of Lord Goring and the young Mrs Sinden as the adventuresome Lady Cheveley. It was not a highly-rated revival, but while Sinden's supercilious manner had a way of getting up some critics' noses and the enterprise smacked of the actor-manager's tendency to find fat parts for himself, there was no doubt about the stage presence of this Goring, especially when viewed as Wilde getting his own back on society.

Even the most sceptical reviewer conceded that the actor "ambles in a convincing, plump languor, a stranger to high emotion and quite at ease on a stage where few others are". Another critic saw in Sinden's acting "touches of Simon Callow and Rowan Atkinson... but he made the part memorably his own."

It was characteristic of a most serious-minded young actor (is that why he could be so funny?) and first-born of a well-known theatrical family that after leaving Lancing College (which he greatly en-



Sinden as the absurdly vainglorious Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*, 1996

Photograph: Stuart Morris

joyed) he ducked the chance of university. Instead he headed straight for the tented theatre at Pitlochry to learn the ropes as a deputy assistant stage manager, lowest of theatrical appointments.

After two seasons of spear-carrying at Stratford-on-Avon (1970-71) where Papa was doing some of his very best work, came stints in pantomime and rep (Bournemouth, Farnham, Leatherhead, Windsor). Then a season at Chichester (where father was again doing fine work, this time in Ibsen's *An En-*

erry of the People) and a tour of *The Making Game* and *The Children Hundreds*.

It was all good experience but was it good enough? On the grounds that it is never too late to learn from instruction as well as experience, Sinden went in his twenties for three years to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art where he gained the Forsyth award.

Not that such awards bring immediate stardom, but thereafter young Sinden gave every sign of developing into an actor to be taken seriously. The

cinema (*Star Wars*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Let Him Have It*, *Ascendancy*, *Woodford in Madame Souza*, *The Object of Beauty*, *The Innocent*) and television (*The Expert*, *Crossroads*, *Soldiers Talking Cleanly*, *Brideshead Revisited*, *Fortunes of War*, *The Far Pavilions*, *Mountbatten*, *Trainer*, *Middlemarch*, and lately, *Our Friends in the North*) began to appreciate his mildly pompous airs and amusing graces.

As "Boy" Mulcaster in *Brideshead Revisited* (1981) he was nominated for an Emmy award; and, the life-belt

for many a struggling actor, the voice-over and Talking Books, especially Woodhouse's Blandings novels, came to the rescue.

Other West End credits included *Follow the Star* (Westminster), *Lady Harry* (Savoy), *The Gypsy Princess* (Sadler's Wells) and *Semi-Monde* (Royalty, 1988).

Adam Benedict

Jeremy Sinden, actor: born London 14 June 1950; married 1978 Delia Lindsay (two daughters); died London 29 May 1996.

## Teresa, Lady Rothschild

Tess Rothschild was as much a Cambridge figure as her husband Victor, the scientist and head of Edward Heath's "Think Tank". She was born a Mayor. Three of her ancestors were Fellows of St John's and her father was a great-nephew of the philosopher John Grote. He was Senior Classic, a Fellow of King's and (like her husband, her brother and son-in-law) an Apostle. Her aunt Flora (F.M. Mayor) was a novelist, the author of *The Rector's Daughter*, while her mother, a playwright, was a Meinertzhagen, and Beatrice Webb was an aunt.

Brought up in progressive circles, she was sent to Bedales, where she became head girl (a distinction which delighted her devoted friend Arthur Marshall, the connoisseur of school-girl novels). At Newnham she was the most celebrated actress of her day at a time when women had just been invited to perform in the ADC and the Marlborough Society. Indeed she seemed scarcely ever to be off the boards even in the vacations. Nothing pleased her more in old age than to recount the triumphs and vicissitudes of these amateur productions.

Some of her left-wing friends considered her mastery of the dialectic to be inadequate; to her great relief she was not pressed to join the Communist Party. During the Second World War she worked for M15 and became assistant to Victor Rothschild, in anti-sabotage operations. His first marriage had ended, and in 1946 they married.

For 15 years they lived at Merton Hill on the Bucks and then, when St John's College bought the house, they were granted a lease to build a house on Herschel Road where their children grew up. The eldest, Emma, held academic posts at MIT and Paris before being

elected a Fellow of King's; the second daughter, Victoria, became a lecturer at Queen Mary College, London; and her son, Amschel, entered N.M. Rothschild & Sons.

She was a beauty, appealing and serene—though beneath the surface she was always anxious. Anxious to please Victor and smooth his life. But if she was self-effacing she had a life of her own. She was a trustee of the Arts Theatre in Cambridge and before that a JP, Chairman of the Bench, lecturer at the Institute of Criminology and she sat on Home Office boards about penal reform. Victor was particularly proud when she was the first woman to read a lesson at the Christmas Eve carol service at King's.

The *beau monde* was not her world. Clothes, jewels, smart parties meant nothing to her, but at whatever cost to her nerves she was hostess to the great and the good, French cousins and Israeli politicians and scientists that Victor brought into her life. What was central to her was family and friends—she was particularly close to her brother Andreas.

The most intimate friends were David Rylance whom she co-edited in his nineties (the Nobel Prize and Master of Trinity, Alan Hodgkin, and his charming American wife, the Labour life peer Pat Lewyn-Davies and Nora David; and at Oxford Aline Berlin and Stuart Hampshire, an old colleague from M15 days. The bearing face of welcome as she greeted those dear to her has now vanished into the night.

Noel Annan

Tess Rothschild was an early friend of the *Independent*, writes James Fergusson. She saw immediately the possibilities of the new newspaper, and was enthusiastic in her advice if, as al-



Rothschild: not of the beau monde

Photograph: Cecil Beaton

ways, tentative in its delivery. She wryly enjoyed playing the game of matching wit to wit, but was down-to-earth on questions such as where the television listings should be sited. Editors ignore these questions at their peril.

Tess lived so long in the shadow of the formidable Victor that her own peculiar virtues often went unrecognised. She was, those who knew said, as intelligent as he was, but she was diffident and submissive where he could be ferocious and assertive; and where he had a deliberate charm and the extraordinary confidence of his name and wealth she had a gentleness and an open curiosity which endeared her as a friend to many.

Her curiosity extended to

her grandchildren, to whom she was devoted. She viewed them with amiable puzzlement, as though they were animals in the wild. She was not sure what they might do next, but she was keen to watch and see. The historic activities of the eldest of them, Kate, who would put on a play for her at the drop of a hat, she found particularly pleasing.

An 80th birthday for others might have been the occasion for a large party. Instead she spent her last year quietly in Suffolk with two of her children and was horrified by having to blow out candles on a cake. She was teased then into some rare confessions of autobiography, about her childhood and Bedales, about the Bloomsber-

for Jonathan Cape before the war; about entering Paris (as a member of the counter-intelligence group, she was one of the first women to do so) with the Allied forces after the liberation.

Victor Rothschild records in one of his books the step-by-step dismantling of a bomb masquerading as a crate of onions. Tessa herself was appointed MBE for throwing a bomb off a bridge. But she didn't tell that story.

Teresa Georgina Mayor, wartime intelligence officer: born London 10 September 1915; married 1946 Victor, third Baron Rothschild (died 1990; one son, two daughters, and one son deceased); died London 29 May 1996.

## Professor Sidney Greenbaum

Sidney Greenbaum did not achieve his three score years and ten, but he achieved much else in a varied and rather unorthodox career. Yet that last phrase seems distinctly ill-chosen, for if there was anything invariant in his life, it was his strictly observant devotion to orthodox Judaism, to the Jewish community wherever he lived, and beyond that to the state of Israel where he regularly visited his only brother Avram, to whom and to whose family he was deeply attached. Devotion also to the ancient sacred Jewish texts in which he took both a religious and a scholarly interest, as befitted one whose first degrees were a London BA and MA in Hebrew and Aramaic.

Already holding a Hebrew teaching diploma, to which was subsequently added a minister's diploma from Jews' College, London, and a teaching diploma from the Institute of Education, he was exceptionally well-qualified for the career in school-teaching on which he embarked. This was at the Hasidic Boys' School in Hendon, but—as he said in an interview for the *Jewish Chronicle* earlier this year—"the scope for teaching modern life from that time—the mid-1950s—was very limited", so he added the teaching of English to his repertoire, made the more convincing by simultaneously studying at Birkbeck College for an Honours English degree.

Perhaps it was this second BA that stimulated an interest in medieval studies, resulting in his coming to see me at University College London in 1964 to discuss a projected medieval research topic. In the event, his visit caused a switch of interest to modern English syntax, and his appointment to a research assistantship on the Survey of English Usage, a project that has existed since 1959 for the

purpose of describing present-day English grammar.

The consequent loss to secondary education and medieval studies was offset by the notable book, *Studies in English Adverbial Usage* (1969), that grew out of the PhD thesis on which he had speedily engaged. This work was based on an innovative psycholinguistic methodology which he and I then pursued in a fruitful collaboration that lasted more than two decades: the happiest years, I suspect, of his entire life (certainly years of a sunny laughter-loving that one somewhat mis-said in his last decade). It was a collaboration that survived his departure from London for a series of appointments: in Israel, in Oregon, and in Milwaukee (Wisconsin)—this last rewarded, years later, by an honorary doctorate.

He returned to Britain in 1983 to succeed me both as Quain Professor and as Director of the Survey. His interest in elicitation and psycholinguistics was now quite suddenly replaced by an equally single-minded immersion in computational technology as applied to the study of corpus material. As well as converting the Survey of English Usage corpus into machine-readable form (and writing copiously the while such books as *A College Grammar of English* and most recently *The Oxford English Grammar*), he set about organising numerous matching corpora illustrating the various kinds of English in use throughout the world. At the time of his shockingly sudden death, he was just seeing through the press a book entitled *Comparing English Worldwide*, shortly to be published by Oxford University Press and comprising chapters written by many from the international band of scholars he had enlisted.



Greenbaum: psycholinguistics

Quiet, mild and equable in temperament, Sidney (or Salman) Greenbaum was not a man one could be confident of really knowing. For all his love of entertaining, not least at the Reform Club, membership of which gave him enormous pleasure, he was a decidedly private man, rather ill at ease socially, with a sometimes brusque manner which may have been directed at concealing the shy, perhaps lonely, perhaps even unhappy man within. If so, all the more commendable his achievements, all the more treasured the memory of his generous hospitality to those who thought of themselves as his friends.

Randolph Quirk

Sidney Greenbaum, English language scholar: born London, 31 December 1929; Quain Professor of English Language and Literature, University College London 1983-90; Director of the Survey of English Usage, 1983-96; Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1988-90; Visiting Professor 1991-96; books include: *Studies in English Adverbial Usage* 1969; (jointly) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* 1985; *The Oxford English Grammar* 1996; died Moscow 23 May 1996.

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

### BIRTHS

GIBBS: On 24 May 1996, at the Bove Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, to Sarah and Alex, a daughter, Megan Rebecca.

VADASZ: To Natalie (nee Shepley) and Tom, on 24 May 1996, a daughter, Polihanna Elizabeth.

### DEATHS

SELLES: Malcolm Kerrison, died 27 May in Ottawa, beloved husband of Sheila, father of two sons, Stephen, daughter, Celia and Kate, son-in-law Paul and two grandsons.

SELSEY: Rosamund, peacefully at Ashley Court Nursing Home, Edinburgh, on 29 May 1996, Rosamund, widow of Gino, mother of Francesco and Nicholas, grandmother of Clare, Isabel, James and Richard. Funeral service in Warriston, Dumfriesshire, Church of St Andrew, on Wednesday 5 June at 2.15pm.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax to 0171-293 3010.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. A. O. Graham and Miss S. E. B. Learmonth. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin Graham, of Stranton-on-Fosse, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Lt-Col P.A. Learmonth (Retired), of Conford, Hampshire, and of Mrs April Edwards, of London SW13.

### Birthdays

Prince Rainier III of Monaco, 73; Sir Francis Avery Jones, guinea-courtesy, 86; Miss Lydia Bellingham, actress, 88; Sir Derek Burley, former Vice-Chancellor, Ulster University, 70; Maj-Gen Keith Burch, former Director Personnel, Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, 65; Sir John Daniel, Vice-Chancellor, Open University, 54; Mr Clint Eastwood, actor, 66; Admiral Sir James Eberle, former Director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, 69; Rear-Admiral Peter Gibson, 83; Mr Andrew Grima, jeweller, 75; Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman, ICL, 64; Air Marshal Sir Valston Hancock, 89; Mrs Debbie Moore, aerobics exponent,

30; Mr John Prescott MP, 58; Sir Michael Sondheim, banker, 69; Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, Tate and Lyle, 67; Sir William Taylor, Chairman of Convocation, London University, 60; Sir Michael Turner, High Court judge, 65; Vice Admiral Sir George Vallings, 64; Mr Terry Waite, former Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs, 57; Mr Peter Winterbottom, rugby player, 36.

### Anniversaries

Births: Alexander Cruden, compiler of the Concordance of the Holy Scriptures; 1701; Johann Ludwig Tieck, poet, novelist and critic; 1778; John Jackson, portrait painter; 1778; Edward Marie-Ernest Deldevez, conductor and composer; 1817; William Worrall May, physician, 1819; Walt Whitman, author and poet; 1819; Alphonse-Marie de Neuville, painter; 1830; Henry Sidgwick, philosopher; 1838; Fritz Hartig, pianist and teacher; 1841; 1911 Hsueh-Low, artist and writer; 1853; Pope Pius (Achille Ratti) XI; 1857; Professor Graham Wallas, economist; 1858; Walter Richard Sickert, painter; 1860; Sir Francis Edward Young, husband, explorer; 1863; William Heath Robinson, illustra-

tor; 1872; Charles Greeley Abbot, astrophysicist; 1872; Helen Waddell, poet and scholar; 1889; Florence Desmond (Dawson), actress; 1905; Don Ameche (Dominic Felix Amici), actor; 1908; Judith Wright, author and poet; 1915; Deaths: Tintoretto (Jacopo Robusti), painter; 1590; Franz Joseph Haydn, composer; 1809; Jean Lannes, Duc de Montebello, soldier, Marshal of the First Empire; 1809; Erwin Gekko, mathematician; 1832; William Smith, abolitionist and emancipator; 1835; Joseph Grimaldi, comic actor and clown; 1837; George Green, mathematician and physicist; 1841; Elizabeth Blackwell, physician (the first woman doctor); 1910; John White Alexander, painter; 1915; Reinhard Heydrich, Nazi "protector" of Bohemia and Moravia, assassinated; 1942; Adolf Eichmann, Nazi war criminal, hanged; 1963; Jack Dempsey, heavyweight boxer; 1983. On this day: Samuel Pepys discontinued writing his diary because of failing eyesight; 1669; in France, the Reign of Terror began; 1793; Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* was first performed; Milan, 1817; the universal right to vote was abolished in France; 1850; the trans-Siberian railway was begun; 1891; the Peace of Vereeniging brought the end of the

Boer War; 1902; during the American Civil War, the Battle of Fair Oaks started; 1862; at Johnston, Pennsylvania, a great flood occurred with the loss of 2,200 lives; 1839; the Union of South Africa was formed from Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal; 1910; the White Star liner *Titanic* was launched at Belfast; 1911; the airman Harry George Huerfano reached a record height of 11,430 feet; 1913; the Naval Battle of Jutland began; 1916; the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Daily News* ceased separate publication and became the *New Chronicle*; 1930; in Germany, the Gothic or Black Letter printing type, was officially abandoned in favour of the Roman character; 1941; the Volga-Don Canal was opened; 1952; the Union of South Africa became a republic; 1961; an earthquake shook Yungay, Huascan, Peru, when about 18,000 people lost their lives; 1970. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Cansius, Canticus, Cantianella and Protus. St Mechtilus of Edelstien and St Petronilla.

### Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sjuris. "Creative Copies (v): Claude and Turner". 1pm.

Tate Gallery: Lesley Stevenson, "Still but not Silent". 1pm.

### Dinners

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. Dr Ian Perry, Master, Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators presided at the annual Livery Dinner held yesterday at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4. Maj Gen Simon Lytle, former Director of Army Aviation, also spoke.

### General Dental Council

Mrs R.M.J. Hoppewhite has been appointed Chief Executive and Registrar of the General Dental Council in succession to Mr Norman Davies, who has retired.

### University appointments

Dr J.G. Cowpe, to the Chair in Oral Surgery, Bristol University. Dr R.E. Brist, to a Chair in Microbiology at Bristol University. Dr R.E. Hawkins, to the Chair of Oncology at Bristol University. Dr R. Bradford, to be Professor of Literary Language and Theory, Ulster University.

Dr S. J. Connolly, to be Professor of Irish History, Ulster University.

### Wills

Joyce Elizabeth Mary, Countess Fitzwilliam, of Milton Hall, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, widow of the 10th Earl Fitzwilliam, left estate valued at £25,232,890 net. Mr Geoffrey John Essence Jameson, of London SW10, managing director of Justerini Brooks 1968-85, left estate valued at £761,072 net. Mr Arthur Leslie Norman English, of Farnborough, Hampshire, left estate valued at £162,391 net.

### Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.35pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen opens the new Library Building of the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, visits the Chartered Institute of Building, Englewood, Kings Ride, Ascot, Berkshire. The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace; and, as Patron, Foundation and Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, launches the new Millennium Seed Bank Appeal at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the Development Support in Action at County Hall, Chester; as Patron, visits the Home Farm Trust's House, Luncston, Shropshire; as Patron, visits the Shropshire Drive, Whitchurch, Shropshire; as Patron, National Autistic Society, opens Wirral Autistic Society's new premises at 123 Princes Avenue, Bromborough, Merseyside, and visits their premises at 154 Allport Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside. The Duchess of Kent, presents Churchill Medallions on behalf of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust at Guildhall, London EC2.

Changing of the Guard. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

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the leader page

# An A for bravery, but Blunkett must do more

Each generation forms deep loves and hates for the schools and teachers it grew up with, and then inflicts its reaction on the next generation. Perhaps this is a crude but effective explanation for the pendulum swings that bedevil education policy.

A motley gathering of intelligent and idealistic young men and women, who had grown up in the restrictive school environments of the 1940s and 1950s, began themselves to take over the teaching of a new generation in the 1960s and 1970s. They instinctively and understandably abhorred the chalk-scrapping, restrictive life they had themselves suffered, in which too many begowned and mortar-boarded teachers monotonously confronted grumpy and bored children, who had been separated at the age of 11 by a divisive examination. They refused to view those two-by-two ranks as grey uniforms (and grey uniforms) minds, all ready for authoritarian rote-feeding. Instead, they believed, their duty was to uncork the bubbling love of learning naturally lying at the child's brimming core. And from that well-spring of inborn curiosity, knowledge and understanding would inexorably bloom.

Their view was not a particularly party political one, even though, in practice, it was usually associated with the left. But it was the fancy of the time, fuelled avidly by the psychologists, sociologists and pedagogues who most

abstractly articulated its mood. For maybe 30 years, and still even today, our universities and teaching training colleges imbued prospective teachers with an ideology which we call, for shorthand, "child-centred".

It all started honestly and innocently, as a programme for modernisation and reform, but it has ended in tears. Not the tears of the authoritarian right, which rails against progressive methods, about which we need care little – but the real tears of failed children, especially less educationally privileged ones, who have tripped off to secondary school with barely the tools to complete a coherent written paragraph, or to divide two numbers in their head.

Sometimes, over the past two decades or so, it has seemed as if teachers were the only people incapable of recognising the simple truth that too many children were being failed early in life by a schooling system that did not teach them basic and vital skills. Every one else could see it, why not them?

Then, increasingly over the past decade, teachers began to accept the new, common-sense wisdom – that a mixture of one-to-one teaching and front-of-class instruction made better sense than leaving children to try to find everything out for themselves. Quite why it took so long for the profession to recognise that teaching requires more structure than it was being given is hard to fathom, since it is obvious to any suc-

cessful parent that nothing creates greater alarm and emotional chaos in a young child than an absence of structure and discipline, purpose and routine in their daily lives. Confusion is no frame of mind for learning, any more than monotonic tedium.

But the main reason it has taken so long is that this message to teachers has been wrapped around a nasty barb. They have been vilified, and their professionalism belittled, in the same breath in which they have been invited to accept that their teacher trainers and advisers sold them short.

For that reason, it was brave of



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David Blunkett, the shadow education spokesman, to stand up in front of the largest headteacher union (comprising mostly primary heads), and tell them that he, a Labour spokesman, agreed that it was time to stop the damage being wrought by outdated child-centred ideologies, and to recognise that the most important task for primary schools is to provide children with the basic tools necessary to move on to more sophisticated learning.

No amount of child-centred or one-to-one learning is going to work unless the child is able to talk and write fluently, and manipulate numbers without

undue agony or inhibiting fear. Yes, children now need to be prepared for a lifetime of flexible working, in which all kinds of other skills may become even more important than spelling, or adding up. Yes, there are calculators and spellcheckers that can do most of the "basics" for them. But learning the basics is not just about mechanical skills – it is about having the confidence to hold your own, and to do it without having to ask a computer. The confident, as always, will succeed, because they will be able to ask the computer to do another, more complex task; the confused, and uncertain, will always fall behind, and the new, flexible world will be all the more frightening for them because they never quite felt footsure on the first rung.

Mr Blunkett is genuinely motivated by a desire to lift that less advantaged and less confident body of children up the scale of educational achievement, for their good, and for our own. Having taken yesterday's step, he now needs to take the next step, which is to improve the quality of teachers.

It should be obvious to anyone who has been concerned about education over the past decade and a half that too much of the argument has been about administration, and not enough about how we help teachers to be better at teaching. Good teachers need to be sure enough of their own skills and knowledge to be able to impart them to oth-

ers. On that score, bluntly, too many primary teachers simply do not know enough about maths or science to teach the subjects properly. In reality, most of them already recognise that reading and writing are core skills, and devote most of their time to those skills in the early years. But they too often spend too little time on the other "basic" skills.

Mr Blunkett has spoken an important truth. He needs to show how teachers will be equipped and motivated to deliver it.

## Let's hear it for wimps

Wimpism: it's one of the most potent political ideas of the 1990s and it has taken the Suffragan Bishop of Hull, the Rt Rev James Jones, to spot it. Bishop Jones has identified the almost complete collapse in male confidence in parts of the country as one of our greatest afflictions. Down trodden *Coronation Street* characters such as Jack Duckworth exemplify the trend. The Bishop wants men like this to explore their feelings, as thousands of born-again Christians do regularly in America. But we are really ready for the innermost thoughts of ranks of Jack Duckworths? Perish the thought. Please Bishop Jones, handle with care.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Facts about milk and phthalates

Sir: Charles Arthur's article "Three countries ban chemicals at centre of baby milk alert" (29 May) has added to the misinformation surrounding this issue.

Evidence that phthalates are "xenoestrogens" is much weaker than Mr Arthur suggests. There is as yet no agreed test method for screening chemicals for their oestrogenic potential. Tests currently in use have produced widely differing, often conflicting results. No phthalates have yet been proven to be oestrogenic. Phthalates are not used in PVC food packaging or wrapping manufactured in the UK. It is not true to say that Sweden has decided to phase out the use of PVC. No such decision has been taken. It is true that the government has asked the Swedish Environmental Protection Board and the Swedish Chemical Inspectorate to undertake studies on PVC to be completed by the end of June 1996.

Nor is the picture of the German market accurate. While it is true that some local authorities have taken steps to limit PVC, this was solely due to strong campaigning by pressure groups. The vast majority of municipalities have never had any limitation against PVC and indeed the trend has been for local authorities to rescind earlier limitations once they had become acquainted with the scientific basis of PVC's use.

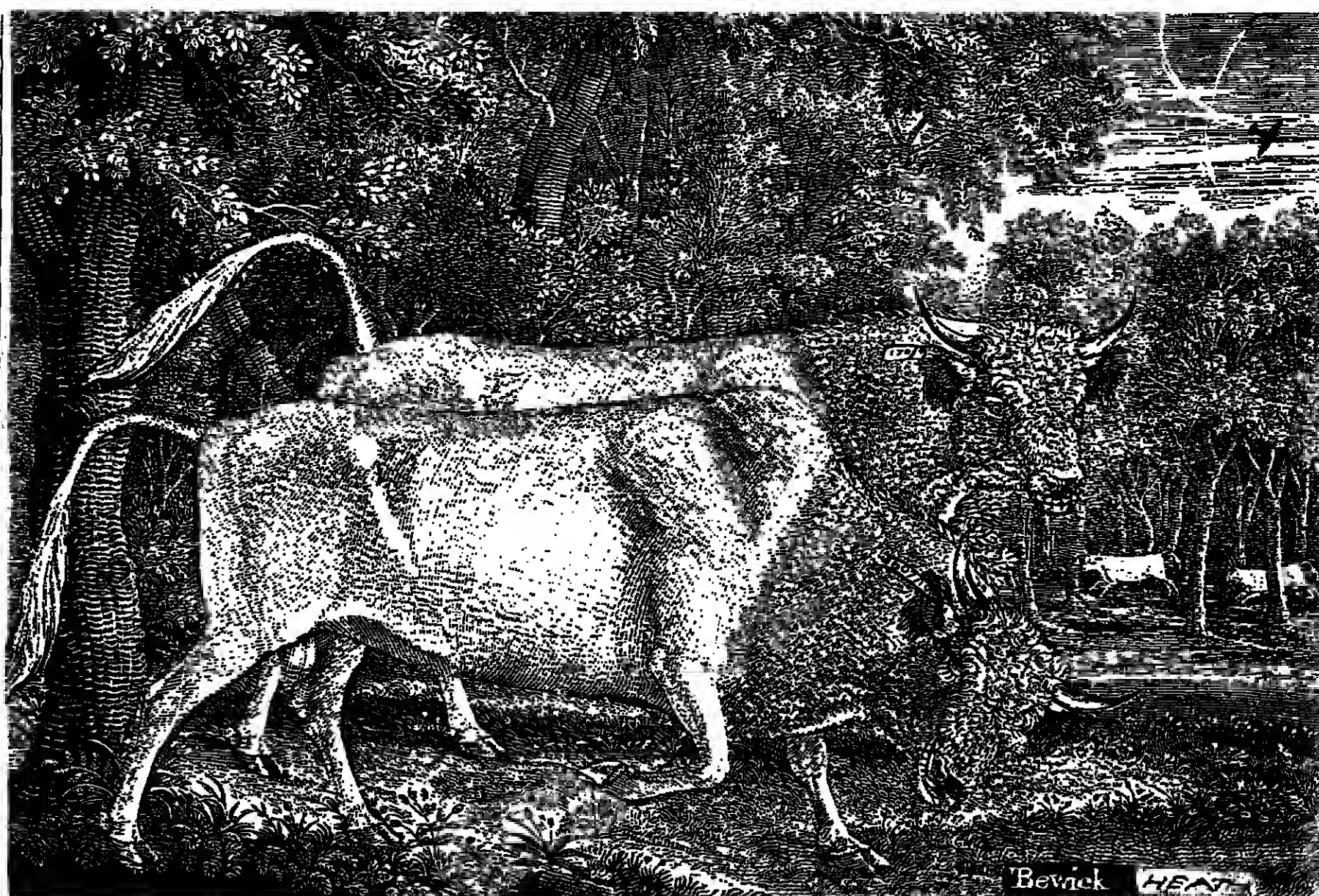
Finally the Swedish government has not banned phthalates. The study published by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency did not arrive at any firm conclusions, nor was it intended to, and the government has not taken any action based on the report. As phthalates are readily photodegradable and biodegradable they are highly unlikely to persist in the environment.

Similarly, in Germany, no governmental agency has taken any action against phthalates. Where in the limited number of cases PVC was restricted, the motivation was to prevent its use in construction applications. A large proportion of these are in rigid PVC which does not make use of any plasticiser, phthalate or otherwise.

PHILIP K LAW  
Issues Director  
The British Plastics Federation  
London EC2

Sir: You report that other countries, notably Sweden, Denmark and Germany, are taking precautionary action to phase out PVC. So are many local and regional governments and communities abroad, as well as retailers and businesses. These precautionary steps are being taken because the problems with PVC go well beyond phthalates in baby milk.

Phthalates are found in baby milk (and in biscuits, parmesan cheese, gravy granules, chocolate cakes etc) because they are widespread in the environment and, now, in the food chain. Phthalates are produced almost entirely – 95 per cent according to the chemical industry – for use in PVC. Dioxins, also significant "gender benders" as well as suspected carcinogens, are also produced with PVC. Virtually all PVC can be replaced by PVC-free alternatives already in use. Stop producing and using PVC and 95 per cent of phthalates entering the environment can be stopped. Obviously, removal of



'Grazing in this beautiful meadow, on a glorious summer's afternoon, you'd never know there was a war on'

contaminants from baby milk is essential (letter, 29 May), but unfortunately this will not happen while PVC is still being produced.

SARAH J BURTON  
Campaign Director, Greenpeace UK  
London N1

Sir: It is hardly surprising that there has been such an emotional reaction to the Government's disclosure that significant quantities of phthalates have been found in baby formula milks ("Cover-up claim in baby milk chemicals row", 27 May).

For years the health industry has sought to persuade people to adopt a responsible lifestyle by the blattant use of scare tactics, to the extent that we now feel guilt if we fail to have our cervical smears, mammograms or serum cholesterol undertaken. We anticipate an early and painful death if we smoke, eat saturated fats or take too little exercise.

Now, in the highly emotive area of bottle feeding babies, we are told that we might just be poisoning their future sexual potential, but that we must not worry as the risk is so very small. Really, the health industry cannot have it both ways.

Dr WILLIAM A HART  
Brough, East Yorkshire

Sir: The furore over phthalates in milk highlights the fundamental problems arising from scientific issues having public importance. The reluctance of government officials to release more details suggests they are worried the public will not be able to assess the evidence. Whether or not this is true, it is a timely reminder that every citizen these days is faced

with public issues of increasing technical and scientific complexity.

It is vital for the public understanding of science to continue to improve and one factor in ensuring this is to maintain a healthy science research base. In this context Tom Wilkie's article (28 May) makes depressing reading. He points out that the government funded research and development planned for next year is £31m per week less than in 1985. Scientific underfunding will inevitably lead to scientific illiteracy.

Dr W N CATFORD  
Department of Physics  
University of Surrey

Sir: Diane Coyle (27 May) denigrates breastfeeding as too inconvenient for the working mother. If mothers are to be breastfed, it is the responsibility of government and employers to support and facilitate this by providing adequate maternity leave and/or a combination of workplace creches and flexible breastfeeding breaks. Instead we are given the conflicting messages that although the Department of Health would like us to breastfeed for a year, the Department of Social Security is willing to allow us only 18 weeks statutory paid maternity leave, and we have no legal right to breastfeeding breaks during working hours. It is this ludicrous contradiction which forces mothers to make a difficult and unnecessary choice between career or breastfeeding.

IMOGEN COOPER  
Paisford, Northamptonshire

### Dr Carey is a good archbishop

Sir: Paul Valley's article (29 May) "Simple preacher tries on a pontiff's robes" misrepresents the Archbishop of Canterbury. The picture he paints bears no resemblance to the Archbishop with whom I frequently travel, and have grown to respect enormously in the time I have worked with him.

Like his predecessor, he has no pretensions to a papal position in the Anglican Communion. He is well aware he has no jurisdiction outside England, except in Sri Lanka, Bermuda and the Falkland Islands. More often he has to resist the high expectations which other provinces place upon him.

The Archbishop only travels to dioceses and provinces which invite him. These invitations pile up here in large numbers from the more "democratic" provinces such as the US, Canada and Australia. The Archbishop has restricted the number of overseas visits he makes because of his heavy responsibilities in this country.

Dr Carey is often at his strongest when he meets heads of state and other significant leaders. He has a rare ability to speak simply, sensitively and clearly to very varied audiences. This should not be confused with lack of rigour or intellectual ability. The standing ovations he received from an extraordinarily wide variety of audiences in the US last week belie the accusations made in Mr Valley's article.

Comparisons between Dr Runcie

and Dr Carey are pointless. Surely the valid questions are "Was Dr Runcie a good archbishop?" and "Is Dr Carey a good archbishop?" From my experience worldwide, the answer to both questions is undoubtedly "Yes!"

The Revd CANON  
ANDREW DEUCHAR  
Lambeth Palace  
London SE1

The writer is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs

### Education reform

Sir: I was interested in the comments of Andrew Belsey (Letters, 24 May), suggesting that Labour's proposed reform of higher education maintenance, with a 20 year repayment system, ignored older graduates.

Our proposals specifically spelt out that repayment was income contingent. If retirement income fell below the repayment threshold, it followed that an older person would not have to continue paying into their seventies.

The present system offers no loans beyond the age of fifty. In order to assist older students, we are also asking the Dearing Committee to examine whether individual learning accounts could be used to save for university maintenance costs as well as for training and learning programmes. DAVID BLUNKETT MP  
(Sheffield Brightside, Lab)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

### Honest debate about pay needed

Sir: Last week Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, rejected an incomes policy out of hand (report, 22 May). This will not curtail debate on pay – "fat cat" scandals and speculation about a minimum wage will see to that.

But there is an urgent need for a full discussion of the challenges raised by pay issues. The implications of a minimum wage for differentials, the reaction in the public sector after years of restraint, and the breaking of the link between pay and performance at executive level (a different kind of differentials exercise) all demand serious attention.

Employees, employers and their representatives need to start considering how past mistakes could be avoided in the context of a new government. The current overblown of the public sector borrowing requirement underlines how difficult it will be to hold down public spending.

It is more than 17 years since the 5 per cent pay round of 1978-79 collapsed, heralding the Winter of Discontent. Now relevant parties seem determined once again to take up opposing positions in public before repeating old mistakes. If an honest, grown-up debate about pay does not take place soon, between all interested players, we will be quoting again the line about history taking place the first time as tragedy and the second time as farce.

STEFAN STERN  
The Industrial Society  
London W1

### Solidarity with Turkish writers

Sir: We, the 98 undersigned, hereby declare our solidarity with the 98 Turkish writers and intellectuals who, on 31 May 1996, will be standing trial in Turkey for exercising their inalienable rights to freedom of thought and expression by contributing to the book *Freedom of Thought in Turkey* which was published last year.

JULIAN BARNES, Sir ISAIAH BERLIN, Lady RACHEL BILLINGTON, MARGARET DRABBLE, MARGARET FORSTER, Lady ANTONIA FRASER, VICTORIA GLENDINNING, DAVID HOLMAN, MICHAEL HOLROYD, DORIS LESSING, Professor DAVID LODGE, JESSICA MANN, IAN MCEWAN, HAROLD PINTER, JOSEPHINE PULLEN-THOMPSON, BERNICE RUBENS, TOM STOPPARD, MARY WESLEY, TIMOTHY WEST and 79 others

International PEN  
London SW3

### Dr Who touched by Midas

Sir: When the American production group was asked to film *Doctor Who* they probably were at a loss as to who this peculiarly arcane English eccentricity was. To remedy this they, probably, half-heartedly watched a few episodes to give them an inkling of the plot. As I sat through the feature length episode ("Dr Who has been exterminated", 29 May), I had to ask myself the very same question.

Once again the Americans have used their Midas touch on an original, inventive British masterpiece and created an over-the-top Batmansque, nightmare. "Bring back the cardboard Daleks and Cybermen or we'll sanction Disney films" should be the threat of the Heritage Ministry. Yes, let's form a "Doctor Who War Cabinet" before it is too late.

Why, at a time like this, the British government should regard Europe as an enemy of our interests remains a mystery to me. DEREK CRAWTHORNE  
Spokesman  
"Dalek Appreciation Society"  
Birmingham

Sir: I could not disagree more with Serena Mackenzie's criticism of *Doctor Who* (TV review, 28 May). As someone who saw every episode on the day of its original screening, even delaying departure on honeymoon so as not to miss one, I thoroughly enjoyed the latest incarnation.

Does everything that claims "Britishness" have to be quaint, quirky and amateur? Is that now to be the excuse for a lack of professionalism that has dogged this country? It was a very worthy successor and it was a pleasure to see it given the production values and funding that it has always deserved. I enjoyed every minute – more please!

MARK UNSWORTH  
email:  
100706.1117@compuserve.com

### Chariot rage

Sir: Even the Greeks were not first (Letters, 29 May). In 2 Kings 9:20, we hear that "The driving is like the driving of Jehu son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously!"

Chariot rage?  
The Rev IAN S PARTRIDGE  
Pastor of the Barwick Group  
East Barwick, Lincolnshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.  
(Fax: 0171-293 2036; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



## essay

# You have been silent too long about racism in Britain

Rita, my friend in the North, once a proud equal opportunities officer, now a management consultant with a flash red smile and BMW, informs me that these days it is passé to bring up the cause of racial equality. Mention it in public company, she warns, and "Nobody will invite you round again. It's yesterday's talk."

Less fashion-conscious critics make more serious denunciations. Many genuinely believe race equality initiatives are a distraction, or that they are divisive and destructive. Martin Mearns, the elected president of the Law Society, describes anti-discrimination measures as "corrupt and debased". Leo McKinstry, once an obscure local Labour councillor, has been inflated into a commentator not because he can write but because he can rant against race equality measures.

This month, the *Express* newspapers launched, with undue enthusiasm, *The End of Racism*, by the American academic Dinesh Desouza (from Goa) who argues that segregation was good for African Americans and that anti-racists cause more damage than racists by making excuses for inept, violent and anti-social blacks. At a public meeting, a black British journalist who agreed with him proclaimed: "Blacks need to get off their backsides and stop complaining." Many ambitious black and Asian individuals would echo this view.

A top Asian television executive claims that racism is not a problem but that "race wars" need to keep up the myth that it is. When Birmingham Council equality units were "downsized" in February this year, punters wrote joyful letters to the local newspaper.

Government ministers such as Ann Widdecombe tirelessly propagate the heartening message that we are much better at "race relations" than those xenophobic French and Germans. White liberals – some close friends of mine, who once simply loved going to anti-apartheid rallies – have had enough, they say, of this special pleading and endless culpability. The upheavals of the 1990s are about taking charge, not whingeing. And if things are so bad, how come that hardworking Trevor McDonald has made it, eh?

It is 20 years since the Race Relations Act. The Commission for Racial Equality has just had its budget cut. Is this because the problems the CRE was designed to deal

'Facing the rage of third-generation black and Asian Britons who cannot claim their place in this society, influential whites and blacks have abdicated their responsibility to lead.'

**Yasmin Alibhai-Brown demands action**

with are receding or has the cause lost popularity?

Much has indeed been achieved. In spite of the collapse of the political consensus of the 1960s which led to the Act, in spite of the backlash and the deregulation of so much other employment protection, the Race Relations law has survived. In April, for example, two Asian risk assessors won £29,000 each in a race discrimination case against Lloyd's.

We now have extraordinarily successful black and Asian scientists, industrialists, artists, media and sports stars. They see this country as a land of opportunity. Ongoing research at the Policy Studies Institute shows that East African Asians, Chinese and Indians are outstripping whites in some fields. Even more encouragingly, big companies now value diversity as an economic asset. The recent Race for Opportunity campaign spearheaded by Robert Ayling, chairman of British Airways, is attempting to encourage both the talent and economic potential of ethnic minority Britons. "As a country," says Mr Ayling, "we have thrived, improved and become more wealthy by taking the best of the immigrant community and utilising their skills. If we can't break down racial barriers between people, we won't work successfully as an organisation." Such radical talk among such folk was unthinkable even five years ago.

But this is only part of a complex story. Inequality and injustice are still pervasive. Research commissioned by BBC Radio 5 Live shows that a third more people, white and black and Asian, think racism is a more serious problem today than five years ago. Unemployment among black and Asian people is 19 per cent, more than double that for white people. One in six young black men in London are unemployed. More of them are in prison than in higher education. There is one ethnic minority civil servant above grade 5, one national newspaper columnist, no editors, hardly any professors, judges, hospital consultants or business board members. The army is riddled with racism. Muslims are victims of blatant discrimination and harassment and can get no redress under our laws, because religion is not covered by the race relations legislation. According to the British Crime Survey there are 130,000 racially motivated incidents a year. Several black men have died in police custody; others have received huge pay-offs after alleged maltreatment by officers. A young black motorist has just been awarded £320,000 for one such incident. Since the failure of the criminal justice system to punish the killers of Stephen Lawrence, it is hard to find anyone in the black community who feels the law protects them.

Why are there so many people in denial about these massive problems? One reason is the visible evidence of advancement: like in the United States, where many people of colour have reached positions of unimaginable power, people are turning against affirmative action even though racism remains a fact of

life for the rest. American blacks are among the richest and most powerful black people in the world. Among the wealthiest people in this country there is always more than a sprinkling of Asians who have made good. And yet the exclusion of the rest has worsened. Both countries find it hard to accept that the forces of progress and regression coexist.

Then there is the problem of race and politics. The political parties recently signed a compact with the CRE agreeing not to use race as a weapon. But both main parties are getting twitchy. Unpopularity may force Tories to play the race card. The danger of such dirty tactics being employed was demonstrated in the last election. And if this tactic is used again, Labour will be vulnerable. Hence the party's palpable silence.

Roy Hattersley, interviewed for my forthcoming Radio 5 Live programme, *No Entry*, says: "There's been no time when Labour has been so silent on immigration and race. Until two years ago we had at least an annual debate on community relations and immigration. It related immigration to race relations and the lives of those who came here 40 years ago. I think Labour – shall I put it charitably? – is being extremely cautious at the moment. Now either you follow the salaman-der and meet the issue head on or do the opposite and Labour at present thinks it is best not to meet it head on." There is also the issue of marginal seats where white voters, anxious about Labour and immigration, could swing the result.

Professor Zig Layton Henry of Warwick University, an expert on race and politics, is convinced that Labour has decided it has much more to gain by pushing women's issues than race equality. This week the BBC transmitted, for the first time ever, a programme where the three party leaders were questioned by Asians about their policies. Only Paddy Ashdown dealt with racism, and it was clear that Tony Blair was uncomfortable with many questions, especially those about problems ethnic minorities have been getting selected.

So far only three Asians have been selected as Labour candidates. Even the Tories have seven. And yet the Labour Party expects black votes as a continuing act of faith. Many ethnic minority youngsters I meet don't trust the party and will not vote at all, although they are desperate for change. Charter 88 and the National Black Caucus are campaigning to encourage the black vote, but more is needed. People are also worried about New Labour's image. Where are the black faces among the bright young acolytes around Blair and Co? We must also confront the withdrawal of white (leftist) liberals from the ideals of race equality and multiculturalism. Suddenly they are sending their children to church schools or elsewhere far away where they will not be contaminated by Diwali. Some are still reeling from the shock waves of the

Rushdie affair which revealed their own limits of tolerance. Others are in angst over their identity in Europe and in Britain. Others still are disengaging from past labels. These are people whom Patrick Wright, the culture critic, describes as "refugees from the collapsing left, stepping out from behind all that discarded ideological baggage to catch up with the opportunities of a world where everything seems to hang free".

But it is not just whites who are responsible for the devastating of race equality. Blacks and Asians are playing their part too, including activists on the front line. Too many bang on as if nothing has changed, when much patiently has. They don't accept that we have serious problems within the black and Asian communities which cannot be explained away by racism. The memories of the

unpleasant and endless quarrels generated by Black Sections must in part be responsible for the way New Labour is behaving. Too much energy is wasted on battles between blacks obsessed with historical, unforgivable white guilt and whites, hell bent on total exoneration. The quarrels between the Anti-Nazi League and the Anti-Racist Alliance and the growing tensions between difficult ethnic and religious groups further discredit the cause. Sanctioning voices noisily vie with each other as life passes them by.

There is a dearth of dynamic ethnic minority leaders, individuals who can inspire community as well as national respect. The old leadership, people like Bernie Grant and Paul Boateng, came through local politics and/or community based groups. These traditional

routes are no longer delivering. Perhaps we will need to look elsewhere. There are individuals like Peter Herbert of the Society of Black Lawyers, or Claude Mores of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, who seem to have what is desperately needed. But we need more, especially those who are capable of entering the inner sanctum of the Labour Party and influencing policies which fit the dreams of those longing for change.

White politicians too must provide the kind of leadership a mature multi-racial democracy needs in the next century. They might begin by dislocating immigration from race. Even Hattersley, who invented the equation that tight immigration policies made for better race relations, now rejects that position and feels that it has actually worsened race relations. We need political leaders who



Yasmin Alibhai-Brown: 'much has been achieved ... but inequality and injustice are still pervasive' Photograph: Dillon Bryden

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## Radio 3 has got it in for jazz lovers

Recently I said that Radio 3 didn't know what it was doing with its jazz policy. I would like to apologise for this. It does know what it is doing. It is trying to get rid of the jazz audience altogether, by killing it off.

I am not just referring to its determination to wear us all into an early grave through having to stay up till half an hour after midnight for its regular *Jazz Notes* offering, and give us terminal fatigue. I have spotted a new tactic on the part of Radio 3 – to give jazz listeners heart attacks and apoplexy. It is well-known that jazz fans are among the most pedantic and nit-picking of all people, fanatics of accuracy with recording dates, personnel details etc. If they spot one bad mistake, they go red in the face. Give them half a dozen, and they might keel over.

Such was my feeling, at any rate, after listening to a 15-minute programme last Friday on Radio 3 devoted to the music of the jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton. It was so misin-

formed and crazily wrong that it must have been deliberate. For example... But decide for yourself. If you are a jazz fan, see how many mistakes you can spot about Morton and jazz in this paragraph of the script, transcribed exactly as I recorded it.

"Throughout the Twenties and Thirties he toured America and became renowned not only for his music but also for his flamboyant dress, showmanship and eccentric accessories: he wore diamonds in his teeth and in his sock garters."

"Musically he had a huge influence on the pianists of the Thirties, Earl Hines, Fats Waller and Erroll Garner among them, who all paid him tribute in their own work. The pianists Carl and Spencer Williams also paid him tribute in the song 'Ain't Gonna Give Nobody None of my Jelly Roll', which we're going to hear now played by the Sidney Bechet (sic) and his New Orleans Feetwarmers again."

"It's followed by a virtuosic farwell from Jerry, er, Jelly



Miles Kingston

Roll himself, 'Tom Cat Blues', which he co-wrote with his friend Franklin Taft Melrose."

OK? That's the text. How many deliberate errors can you spot? Well, time's up and here are the answers.

1. Morton didn't do much touring in the Thirties. His music was out of fashion by 1930 and he hardly worked again, being as good as broke throughout the Thirties. As he died a forgotten man in 1941, it wasn't really quite as good a final decade as Radio 3 thinks.

2. Nobody outside Radio 3 ever thought Morton had much influence on Hines, Waller or Garner, who were

all much finer pianists than he was.

3. Only on Radio 3 do they think of Erroll Garner as a pianist of the 1930s: he was not yet out of his teens in 1940.

4. There is no such person as Carl Williams. The man who wrote the song was Clarence Williams.

5. 'Ain't Gonna Give Nobody None of My Jelly Roll' has nothing to do with Jelly Roll Morton at all. It refers to a piece of sexual double entendre which was common in black American parlance of the time, and which Morton, too, borrowed for his nickname.

6. This means that the following record in this special Jelly Roll Morton quarter of an hour had nothing to do with Morton at all, being written by someone else and played by someone else.

7. He may turn up in reference books as Franklin Taft Melrose but he was never known in jazz history as anything but Frank Melrose.

8. And finally, though you won't get this from the script,

you would have been disappointed by Jelly Roll Morton's "virtuosic" performance of "Tom Cat Blues" if you had stayed to listen to it. This is because the man on Radio 3 didn't play a record of "Tom Cat Blues" at all: he played a very different Morton piece called "King Porter".

This may sound to you like jazz pedantry, and of course it is, and I enjoyed it tremendously. All I am saying is that if you can get eight fairly basic errors about jazz into 133 words of text, which is about one error every 16 words, then it is probably not an accident. It is deliberate. I can only imagine that the head of Radio 3 has ordered his minions to start putting out little jazz programmes riddled with mistakes in order to give heart attacks to those jazz listeners who have not yet succumbed to terminal fatigue.

Put it another way: if I keel over with a red face and peg out in the near future, I want a warrant for murder to be issued against a man called Nicholas Kenyon.



## the commentators

## Wanted: an enterprise culture for the Nineties

The mood has swung against the Thatcherite business ethos of the Eighties. Now we need to build up a less divisive approach

Last week's jailing of Owen Oyston seemed to bang yet another nail in the coffin of the enterprise culture. In the wake of the Maxwell scandal and Cedric Brown, the public mood has turned sharply against business. Its leaders are less likely to be seen as wealth-creating heroes than as self-serving fat cats, and according to opinion polls, only 15 per cent of the British public now trust multinationals to be honest.

There are good reasons for the swing of the pendulum against the Eighties enterprise culture. Hundreds of thousands of firms disappeared during a recession that owed as much to government policy as to the business cycle, and millions have suffered from the relentless downsizing of big firms that has now prompted even Stephen Roach, the guru of downsizing, to admit that it may have left American business not so much lean as anorectic.

In retrospect it is easy to see just how flawed was the enterprise culture that Margaret Thatcher so assiduously promoted. While there was much to be said for cutting red tape, restrictive union power and state subsidies, her policies promoted a very narrow and exclusive

idea of business. It was portrayed as a minority pursuit for pin-striped young men and swaggering self-made businessmen, as more about deals than making things or providing a service, and more about huffing employees than getting the best out of them.

Unfortunately no one gains from a climate of opinion in which business is always in the dock. In a capitalist system, unless risk, innovation and greed are rewarded, and unless firms can compete and co-operate in healthy ways, it is very hard to create wealth and jobs. The simple fact that prosperity has as much to do with culture as with traditional economic concerns such as inflation, investment and interest rates, has been taken much more seriously in recent years.

In America, for example, the Democrats are considering new rules that would give tax advantages to responsible "A-Corporations" that train and consult their staff. In Japan the primary concern has been to make business more creative in areas such as software where they have singularly failed to gain a substantial market share. In Germany, business leaders are worried about

the lack of a venture capital industry, and the risk-taking culture that goes with it.

One might have expected Britain, too, to be asking hard questions about how we can learn from the mistakes of the Eighties without returning to the failed corporatism of the Seventies. But although John Major talks of making Britain the "enterprise centre of Europe" and Tony Blair is keen to reassure business of Labour's responsibility, there is little sign of fresh thinking.

Few politicians have yet understood that culture is as important as exchange rate mechanisms and tax cuts. Relatively few commentators are familiar with analysing cultures, partly because they see them as less tangible than the hard facts of economics, and partly for the simpler reason that they have spent so many years juggling with macroeconomic variables.

The first priority is to get away from the exclusive image that business took on in the Eighties. Fortunately one of the better legacies of Thatcherism is that a remarkably high proportion of young people want to be self-employed. Nearly 800,000 women now run their own



GEOFF MULGAN

### No one gains when business is always in the dock

businesses. It is striking how far the most popular contemporary business heroes – like Anita Roddick, Shami Ahmed or Richard Branson – are from the traditional image of staid white men in suits. Yet too many of the institutions dealing with business, from TECs to local banks, are still cast in an old image that is alienating wealth creators of the future.

The second step is to reject the idea that it makes good business

sense to treat employees as disposable commodities. Few slogans have encouraged more cynicism than the mantra "our people are our greatest asset" which has usually coincided with swinging job cuts. All too often employers have expected ever greater commitment and longer hours from their staff, but shown no commitment back. Yet in an economy ever more based on information and knowledge these styles of management are becoming obsolete. Highly skilled staff can literally walk out of the door, not only in software and multimedia but also in what are now high technology manufacturing sectors like steel and cars, where efficient production depends on motivating employees to share information and solve problems for themselves.

So far, the historic shift away from an economy dominated by financial capital to one dominated by human capital has yet to filter through to boardrooms, policy-makers and stock exchanges. But already many firms are trying to catch up. Some are looking at the arts and even theatre to understand how to motivate people to be creative. Others have set up their own quasi-universities (like Unipart's university in which there are no examinations and no qualifications) to inculcate a commitment to learning. Alternatively, some companies are still trying to give significant shareholdings to their employees – a kind of active popular capitalism that contrasts sharply with the passive ownership of privatised utility shares.

These are valuable pointers to a more forward-looking enterprise culture. But a more information-based economy also has many other properties that render the Eighties enterprise culture obsolete. One is that the public is far more judgemental about firms' records on things like the environment. Another is that since many more jobs require people to work with other people, there is a far greater premium for interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence rather than macho aggression. A third is that firms too have to work collaboratively, rather than in splendid, individualist isolation. One US study found that firms most active in strategic alliances are making 50 per cent higher returns, and the world's most dynamic industrial areas like Seattle, Silicon Valley, Singapore

and Baden-Württemberg, all rest on dense networks in which firms both compete and co-operate.

Add these together and it is not hard to imagine a very different enterprise culture to the one that took shape in the Eighties. It would be a more inclusive culture, and one more suited to an information economy in which wealth can be created almost out of nothing, as firms such as Netscape and Microsoft have shown. For politicians it may be hard to go beyond the familiar clichés about education, training and macroeconomic stability. But without an understanding that the promoters of a Thatcherite enterprise culture were at least asking the right question, even if their answers were flawed, Britain could all too easily be left not as the enterprise centre of Europe, but rather as a bit part player in a global economy where the new ideas, new jobs and new firms are all emerging somewhere else.

*The New Enterprise Culture, a collection bringing together authors including Charles Handy, John Kay and Helen Wilkinson, is available from Demos, price £8 (0171-353 4479).*

To understand the election results in Israel, one has to look at the development of a new, religious form of Zionism, argues Irad Malkin

## The land of the Philistines

It sometimes ponders the fate of the religious brother of my secular, Zionist grandmother. In 1936 she migrated to Palestine; however, he was forbidden from doing so by his rabbi. The Jewish state, claimed the rabbi, must not be rebuilt before the coming of the Messiah. The advice was catastrophic (the Germans killed my great uncle in Poland), but nonetheless symptomatic of the Jewish-Zionist paradox on the one hand there was a territorial, spiritual Judaism, and on the other secular Zionism. The origins of the Zionist movement consisted in a rebellion against the kind of religious Judaism that made a virtue of a diaspora existence. Indeed, except for one religious movement, whose descendant is Israel's National Religious Party, all other Jewish religious sects in Israel remain, until today, ostensibly non-Zionist. Their religious parties, which have made significant gains in this week's elections, are experienced veterans of the political election game in Israel. In the early Fifties their interests were mainly sectorial. But in time they changed their focus, and today their agenda has come full circle in its desire to reverse Zionism's definition of what Judaism is all about. Their success could change the face of Israel, its relations with the Arabs, and the value Israeli society attaches to the territorial aspects of "the Jewish State".

The view of Israel from abroad is far too narrow and mistakenly concentrates on external aspects of the Israeli-Arab relationship. Israel's picture in the media is "event-oriented". This underplays deeper

changes of attitude and outlook, and it is precisely such changes that contextualise and even create the events. To understand Israeli society one would do well to observe its dilemmas and changing views of itself as a Jewish state. Israel has existed as a state for almost 50 years and during this time, and especially during the three decades following the Six Day War (1967), a polarised cultural struggle has enveloped its society.

The struggle oscillates between notions of a secular, "ethnic", and historically conditioned Jewish identity (the view of secular Zionism), and the religious orientation of

Historically, Zionist movements on the left and on the right claim a share in the creation of the state of Israel, in the renaissance of the Hebrew language, and in winning Israel's wars. However, the enormous energy invested in state-building left little time for secular Jews (or "free Jews", as Orthodox Jews disparagingly call them) to invest in their non-religious identity. Jewish values have been abandoned to the cultural investment of religious movements whose members cannot comprehend any definition of Judaism other than a religious one. Having invested relatively little in state- and nation-build-

ing, religious movements now find themselves in a position to metamorphose the character of the Jewish state.

What character? One can be an Englishman and maintain almost any religious belief without losing that which makes him "English". But can the same be said of a Jew? The long history of the overlap between the ethnic and the religious terminology has created a basic contradiction that no Israeli can fully solve. Perhaps inexplicitly, it is inconceivable even for a "free Jew" like myself that I might convert to another religion and remain a Jew. The religious parties have been very successful in shifting the focus to their point of view by exploiting the lack of clear-cut answer to the question: "What is a Jew?" (Israel has no constitution primarily for this reason).

It is perhaps no wonder that the dogmatic slogan "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" carefully pronounced just a day before the elections, carried the day with the religious bloc and the majority of the Jewish population (55 per cent, excluding the votes of Israeli Arabs).

I could never sympathise with Orthodox Judaism, but I could respect the basic tenet shared by many Orthodox parties: the secular state is just a tool, and Jewish existence within it is best regarded as comparable to communal Jewish existence, say, in England or the US. Israel, however, is not England and the supposedly secluded religious sectors too are undergoing an Israeli acculturation. Both ideology and the reality of life in Israel are rapidly sandpapering away the spiritual tenets of the non-Zionist Orthodox parties. The Judaism of these parties has become intimately linked with land. These elections have proven that "place" and territory have become irrevocably glued to spiritual Judaism; paradoxically the rabbis, while probably happy with their victory, should now be worried lest the cruder, nationalistic aspects of Zionism will take over their own flock.

Israel's future and its ability to extricate itself from its domination over, and settlement among, Palestinians may depend on the "Jewish content" of the territorial space it occupies in Israel. Religious and rightist Judaism are irreducible by definition. For example, the (now Arab) city of Hebron, where Abraham is supposed to have purchased a burial plot, should, accordingly, be Jewish. By contrast, the mainstream of Zionism until the 1967 war looked for a solution for the

Jewish people "in Palestine" (a point officially made already in the Balfour Declaration), not over all of it. Modern Zionism has led Jews to Israel mainly through its ports and has settled the absolute majority of Jews along Israel's Mediterranean coasts. Whereas in antiquity Jews believed they had migrated to Israel from the desert, led by Moses and settled by Joshua in the hinterland, today's demographic reality constitutes a complete reversal: in their heads Jews were returning to the "land of their fathers", but the realisation of the Return was at best approximate, and Jews mostly settled in the coastal regions of ancient Phoenicia and the cities of the Philistines (hence the name "Palestine").

How is this Mediterranean paradox connected with religion, Judaism, the elections and the future? In acknowledging the Mediterranean real-

ity of Israel, the governments of Rabin and Shimon Peres have also given up on irredentism. Let us remember that from the Israeli point of view, the most significant ideological and formal implication of the Oslo agreements with the Palestinians was that Israel has officially given up, for the first time ever, its claim over the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) as the primordial land of the ancestors of the Jewish people. We have come just short of implementing this recognition, between "Oslo II" (already signed and partially implemented) and "Oslo III", yet to be negotiated. But can this still happen?

A victory of the right, coloured by its close alliance with the religious parties, must signify that the principle of irredentism is back in full force. It builds on two major trends. On the one hand, an increasing number of secular Israelis are being told (and, it seems, con-

vinced) that Jewish identity equals religious identity. On the other hand, more and more religious Jews have come to see their Judaism as consisting of an attachment to the Sacred Land.

Shimon Peres argued against irredentism and for peace. His efforts had brought the Israeli-

Jewish electorate almost to the top of the hill, from which it may be rolling backwards. When I write these lines, on the morning after the elections, the heart is as heavy as the stone of Sisyphus.

*The writer is professor of Ancient History at Tel Aviv University.*



Religious Israelis have come to see their Jewish identity as linked to occupying the 'land of their fathers'

### One would do well to observe Israel's dilemmas and changing views of itself

Judaism. While the numbers may not seem worrying – the joint religious parties now have 25 (rather than 18 seats) in a parliament of 120. Wednesday's elections nonetheless indicate a dramatic shift towards the religious orientation. This is particularly worrying because, from the a-territorial Judaism of my great-uncle's rabbi, religious Judaism is increasingly identified with the notion of the sacred Land of Israel. The once moderate National Religious Party moved to the ultra-right territorialists almost a generation ago; the same is now happening with the other religious sectors of Israeli political life. I found it no surprise that, for the first time in its history, almost the entire religious block supported the candidate of the right.

ing, religious movements now find themselves in a position to metamorphose the character of the Jewish state. What character? One can be an Englishman and maintain almost any religious belief without losing that which makes him "English". But can the same be said of a Jew? The long history of the overlap between the ethnic and the religious terminology has created a basic contradiction that no Israeli can fully solve. Perhaps inexplicitly, it is inconceivable even for a "free Jew" like myself that I might convert to another religion and remain a Jew. The religious parties have been very successful in shifting the focus to their point of view by exploiting the lack of clear-cut answer to the question: "What is a Jew?" (Israel has no constitution primarily for this reason).

It is perhaps no wonder that the dogmatic slogan "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" carefully pronounced just a day before the elections, carried the day with the religious bloc and the majority of the Jewish population (55 per cent, excluding the votes of Israeli Arabs). I could never sympathise with Orthodox Judaism, but I could respect the basic tenet shared by many Orthodox parties: the secular state is just a tool, and Jewish existence within it is best regarded as comparable to communal Jewish existence, say, in England or the US. Israel, however, is not England and the supposedly secluded religious sectors too are undergoing an Israeli acculturation. Both ideology and the reality of life in Israel are rapidly sandpapering away the spiritual tenets of the non-Zionist Orthodox parties. The Judaism of these parties has become intimately linked with land. These elections have proven that "place" and territory have become irrevocably glued to spiritual Judaism; paradoxically the rabbis, while probably happy with their victory, should now be worried lest the cruder, nationalistic aspects of Zionism will take over their own flock. Israel's future and its ability to extricate itself from its domination over, and settlement among, Palestinians may depend on the "Jewish content" of the territorial space it occupies in Israel. Religious and rightist Judaism are irreducible by definition. For example, the (now Arab) city of Hebron, where Abraham is supposed to have purchased a burial plot, should, accordingly, be Jewish. By contrast, the mainstream of Zionism until the 1967 war looked for a solution for the

Jewish people "in Palestine" (a point officially made already in the Balfour Declaration), not over all of it. Modern Zionism has led Jews to Israel mainly through its ports and has settled the absolute majority of Jews along Israel's Mediterranean coasts. Whereas in antiquity Jews believed they had migrated to Israel from the desert, led by Moses and settled by Joshua in the hinterland, today's demographic reality constitutes a complete reversal: in their heads Jews were returning to the "land of their fathers", but the realisation of the Return was at best approximate, and Jews mostly settled in the coastal regions of ancient Phoenicia and the cities of the Philistines (hence the name "Palestine"). How is this Mediterranean paradox connected with religion, Judaism, the elections and the future? In acknowledging the Mediterranean real-

ity of Israel, the governments of Rabin and Shimon Peres have also given up on irredentism. Let us remember that from the Israeli point of view, the most significant ideological and formal implication of the Oslo agreements with the Palestinians was that Israel has officially given up, for the first time ever, its claim over the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) as the primordial land of the ancestors of the Jewish people. We have come just short of implementing this recognition, between "Oslo II" (already signed and partially implemented) and "Oslo III", yet to be negotiated. But can this still happen? A victory of the right, coloured by its close alliance with the religious parties, must signify that the principle of irredentism is back in full force. It builds on two major trends. On the one hand, an increasing number of secular Israelis are being told (and, it seems, con-

vinced) that Jewish identity equals religious identity. On the other hand, more and more religious Jews have come to see their Judaism as consisting of an attachment to the Sacred Land. Shimon Peres argued against irredentism and for peace. His efforts had brought the Israeli-

Jewish electorate almost to the top of the hill, from which it may be rolling backwards. When I write these lines, on the morning after the elections, the heart is as heavy as the stone of Sisyphus. The writer is professor of Ancient History at Tel Aviv University.

## You, too, could climb Mount Everest – for a price

Our consuming passion for 'safe-risk' holidays has little to do with real adventure, writes Charles Arthur

Any Old Testament prophet would have been proud of a voice like Brian Blessed's. The actor speaks with a rolling, deep roar, sometimes muted, sometimes not. On his return this week from a third unsuccessful attempt to climb Mount Everest, Blessed was clearly in the mood to condemn the sins he had perceived there.

"I found people taking food from our tents, our rations burgled," he said. "People shitting in our tents while we were out – though that's all right, it's so cold up there it goes hard as cement, you can clear it out easily. People turning up without enough provisions or tents, hoping someone else will help them." Reaching the summit was their only desire, and they didn't care how they did it. "I was horrified that such a high mountain experienced the lowest common denominator in human behaviour."

It was not only on the mountain itself that he was appalled. "The north (Chinese) side used to be a magic place. Mallory and Irvine started from that side in the 1920s. There was a beautiful monastery. Now, the north-side base camp has huge toilets the size of four rooms – and they're overflowing – while the monastery sells Pepsi."

His voice rises to a dull roar. "In four years' time they're going to build

a hotel with a view that's the greatest on God's earth. What next? Funicular railways to the top with pressurised suits taking Yanks up for \$50,000 a go, and then complaining that the weather's bad so they can't see the historic spot where Mallory and Irvine disappeared?"

Some might be surprised that the

### The risk of dying on Mount Everest is still about one in 33

29,028ft mountain has fallen so dramatically to earth. But to others, many of Blessed's complaints cut no ice. Given the choice between using a vacant tent as a toilet, or wandering outside, perhaps to slip down a gully – as one person did this month – wouldn't you take the first? "Sometimes it's just survival," says Stephen Venables, the British climber who reached the summit in 1988. "Or you're confused – as happens at high altitude – or there's a genuine misunderstanding about using something. It happens."

But to top mountaineers, the allure of Everest has diminished in direct

proportion to the number of people on the mountain. "In the 1970s, you could only get on to one side of the mountain," says Venables. "The others were closed off by their governments." "There would be one expedition in spring and one in autumn, and the people on them would be highly competent climbers – the cream – who had proven themselves elsewhere first."

And now? There were roughly 150 climbers, of varying ability, and 300 Sherpas on the mountain, as storms struck and killed a total of 11 in the past fortnight. All four countries bordering the peak now allow access – for a price, which starts at around \$10,000 – and this has led to the proliferation of companies offering to guide inexperienced mountaineers to the place above all others. Classified adverts in sports magazines offer "your best chance of reaching the top of Everest". All you need is \$16,000 and some mountaineering experience.

The offers have been taken up eagerly. At one point last year there were almost 40 people standing on the "roof of the world", an area about the size of a large room. One, a Texan, twisted a lariat he had brought up as a memento from friends back home. He slipped and was only saved from falling thousands of feet to his death when

his lariat caught on a rock at the edge. The true fault lies in our supermarket-adventure culture. Nowadays, people love – even expect – the "safe risk", bought off the shelf: hang-gliding, parachuting, white-water rafting, scuba-diving, abseiling are all activities that used to be extremely risky but better equipment has

### The true fault lies in our supermarket-adventure culture

reduced the danger so much that they can be part of a funeral, a charity activity day or a management training course. The adventure has been wrung out of them. All that remains is the perception of risk, among those who never really appreciated the dangers involved.

Similarly, to say that you have climbed Everest still has an iconic importance. True, it requires supreme fitness, and yes, it is dangerous. Scott Fischer and Rob Hall, who died in this spring's calamity, were two of the best mountaineers in the world. The risk of dying on the mountain is still calculated at about one in 33.

But which would you be more impressed by – someone who had climbed Everest, or who had topped the world's second-highest mountain? It should be the latter – K2 is technically far more demanding and, because of its remoteness, is always climbed without supplementary oxygen.

Is there adventure left anywhere? At this question, Venables almost explodes. "The Great Himalaya stretches for 2,000 miles! At its widest it's 200 or 300 miles across. There are thousands of peaks that have never been climbed there. I've done a climb that was just 18 miles from Everest, just off a popular trekking route; it took us three days of hacking through jungle just to reach the base of the mountain. You don't have to go far to find the wilderness."

And you do not have to travel to the more remote points of the earth to find a wilderness. Consider the case of Sir Ranulph Fiennes – best known for his frost-bitten, determined walks across the Antarctic. Now he is exploring the routes of London's sewers. The risks may be low, but he is demonstrating what all the great explorers have always had – the imagination to discover the unknown, rather than merely follow someone else's packaged itinerary.

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## ARTHRITIS?

Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

If you suffer from arthritis you will know only too well how it can affect your life. I am a doctor with years of experience in general practice and have diagnosed and treated countless hundreds of patients who have this often troublesome problem.

But it isn't only doctors who can help you – there's an awful lot you can do yourself to help overcome the symptoms of arthritis. For this reason I decided to write a book which gives all the advice and information you need to help you reduce your arthritis symptoms. Thousands of people have already benefited from my advice on health matters and now you can share the information I have gathered over the years – while working as a family doctor and hospital doctor.

The book – How To Conquer Arthritis – contains all the information you're likely to need, including:

- Getting the best out of drugs
- Controlling pain
- Diet and arthritis
- Helpful alternative treatments
- What doctors can do

The advice in my book is easy-to-follow and includes a series of simple, practical tips designed to help you deal with your arthritis symptoms. I am so confident that my book can help you that you can try my advice without risk – if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt and I will personally ensure that you get a full refund. To order "How To Conquer Arthritis" send a cheque or PO (payable to Healthbooks) for £9.95 to Dr Vernon Coleman, Sales Office DN34, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HI (p&p is FREE). For credit card sales ring 01271 328892. We aim to despatch orders within 48 hours but please allow 28 days for delivery. And remember – our money-back guarantee means that you can order today entirely without risk.

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## OECD lowers British growth expectations

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

Doubt was cast on Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's optimism about economic prospects this year by a big downgrade from an authoritative outside forecast yesterday.

Although the Treasury will revise down its own forecast when it publishes an update in July, the Chancellor will continue to have one of the highest growth predictions for the UK. His current 3 per cent growth target is well out of line with yesterday's 2 per cent prediction from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday asked Mr Clarke to justify his optimism about the economy. In a letter to the Chancellor he wrote: "Just as happened last year, it would appear that growth will be lower than you forecast. Under these circumstances, will you either justify your own forecast, or accept the OECD's forecast and spell out

the implications for our public finances." If the OECD turns out to be more accurate, tax revenues will be lower than projected in the last budget, further reducing Mr Clarke's scope for tax cuts.

In its review the organisation sounded a note of caution about government borrowing, saying that current public spending plans were "ambitious" and previous attempts to reduce government spending had had

mixed results. Future tax cuts should be matched by spending cuts, it said.

However, in its annual report on the British economy the Paris-based think-tank repeated last year's praise of the Government's economic policies for delivering sustainable, non-inflationary growth and lower unemployment. It also reviewed labour market deregulation and competition policy favourably.

The Chancellor welcomed

the report's generally favourable assessment of government policies. He noted that the OECD - which is funded by member governments - had revised down its forecasts for most countries and expected the British economy to pick up later this year.

The new forecast cuts the growth outlook for this year from 2.4 per cent previously to 2 per cent, putting the OECD near the gloomy end of the

range of forecasts. Its economists have revised up their prediction for growth in consumer spending from 2.3 per cent to 3 per cent but scaled back their expectations for investment and exports. They also expect reductions in excess stock levels to hold back growth.

The current pause is likely to be short-lived, however, as consumer spending will underpin further economic recovery. The OECD reckons inflation

will remain subdued with "a broadly unchanged stance for monetary policy over the coming two years." Its diagnosis that there will be no need to raise interest rates significantly stems from the fact that output remains below potential. It concluded: "The prospects are good for continuing economic expansion and further reductions in unemployment, while maintaining low inflation."

The Government was pleased, too, by the survey's focus on the deregulation of the labour market and stimulation of competition. The OECD has long declared itself impressed by the UK's "flexible" jobs market, but this report was the first to praise competition policy too.

Privatisation had on balance been a success despite concerns about the lack of competition in the utilities, it concluded. The report said

there had been "substantial improvements in productivity and impressive real price reductions." However, it had criticisms in both areas. On the jobs front it said the main challenge was to reduce long-term unemployment and upgrade skill levels. It also said the growth in inequality meant "policy-makers may need to bear in mind the position of those at the bottom."

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## Better exports to rescue industry from recession

Britain's export performance last year was better than at first thought, the Office for National Statistics said yesterday, writes Diane Coyle. Revisions to earlier figures will raise the economy's estimated growth rate last year, rescuing manufacturing industry from recession.

New figures show Britain's trade deficit narrowed in March to £802m from £1.33bn in Feb-

ruary, but the April shortfall in trade with 000-EU countries widened to £868m from £676m in March.

The trade news helped sterling remain near a 15-month high against the mark. It closed at DM2.35 last night, up a quarter of a penny.

Traders said that, in a break with tradition, overseas investors were shunning off the

Government's war on Europe and starting to look forward to the stability of a Labour government after the election.

New data for export and import prices mean the ONS has revised up estimated growth in export volumes in 1995. Analysts said this was likely to raise last year's GDP growth from 2.5 to 2.6 per cent. The new price figures also imply that the pub-

lished fall in manufacturing output in the fourth quarter will be revised away.

Jonathan Loyes, an analyst at HSBC Markets, said: "This will turn what was previously a pretty flat trend in manufacturing output throughout last year into a gently rising trend."

The trend in the visible trade deficit is broadly flat, according to official statisticians. Exclud-

ing oil and erratic items, the underlying deficit widened to £5.2bn in the first quarter of this year from £4.7bn in the final quarter of last year.

Erratic items flattered the March global deficit, with precious stones accounting for half the month's increase in exports. But half of April's jump in imports from non-EU countries was due to aircraft.

**The UK Economy in 1996**

	OECD's new forecast (May 96)	OECD's old forecast (Dec 95)	Treasury forecast (Nov 95)
GDP	2.0	2.4	3.0
of which:			
consumer spending	3.0	2.3	3.5
investment	2.0	4.8	4.25
government consumption	0.8	1.4	0.25
exports	5.2	6.2	7.25
imports	5.7	6.5	6.75
stocks*	-0.3	0.0	-0.25
Manufacturing output	1.5	2.3	2.5
*% of GDP			

Source: OECD, HM Treasury

## United to expand by alliances

MICHAEL HARRISON

United Utilities, the group created through the merger of North West Water and the electricity supplier Norweb, yesterday unveiled plans to expand through a series of strategic alliances into the gas and power markets.

The new strategy is likely to see the combined utility signing deals with North Sea gas suppliers and electricity generators rather than buying another water or regional electricity company outright. Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, said: "We are not on the prowl. We have plenty to do integrating the businesses we have at the moment."

He was speaking as the company, the first of the wave of multi-utilities being created through the consolidation of the water and electricity industries, reported a 4 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £73m after heavy restructuring charges at Norweb, increased drought costs and spending on discretionary customer initiatives.

The shares, which have put in a pedestrian performance since the merger on 1 January, slid 15p to close at 580p despite further bullish comments about the progress of integrating Norweb. Brian Staples, chief executive, said cost savings could be achieved by supply utilities such as United Utilities working more closely with electricity generators such as National Power, particularly as the domestic energy markets will be opened up to competition in 1998 and prices squeezed.

"If you want to be a winner, then the sensible thing to do is to share the squeeze," he added.

The results, which included a £99m contribution to operating profits from Norweb, were affected by £134m of restructuring costs, including £104m for the integration of Norweb. Drought costs were also higher at £24.4m while a further £23.4m was spent on discretionary customer initiatives.

Stripping out Norweb and the exceptional costs of restructuring, operating profits rose from £344m to £365m.

Mr Staples said it remained his view that the consolidation of the utilities sector would result in the sector being dominated by no more than six to 10 multi-utilities. United Utilities believes that its own announcement in March of cost savings that the Norweb merger would achieve helped prompt the renewed round of merger activity.

United Utilities estimates that the merger will be delivering an extra £140m to its bottom line by the end of the decade. Yesterday it said that £73m, or 78 per cent, of the £94m benefits forecast for the current year had already been confirmed while £92m of the £105m benefit projected for 1997/98 had been attained.

The cost reductions will include the closure and sale of Norweb's headquarters in Manchester and 2,500 job losses, 1,160 of which have already been achieved in the regulated electricity and water businesses.

Sir Desmond also said that the group's £350m disposal programme was on course. This will involve the sale of Norweb Retail, the third largest electrical retailer in the country, Norweb's contracting and generation businesses and North West Water's process equipment division.



Share the squeeze: Brian Staples and Sir Desmond Pitcher prepare strategies for competition in the market from 1998 Photograph: Edward Sykes

## ScottishPower insists race 'not over yet'

MICHAEL HARRISON

ScottishPower yesterday re-inforced expectations that it will raise the stakes in the bid battle for Southern Water by insisting that the race with the rival bidder Southern Electric was "not over yet".

The comment came as another water company on the receiving end of two hostile bids - South West Water - marshalled its defences with a 12 per cent increase in the dividend

and a £10-a-head rebate for customers.

A spokesman for the ScottishPower camp said: "We set out with the intention of securing agreement of the board. We still want to acquire Southern Water. There is a recommended alternative offer on the table. We are reviewing our options."

On Wednesday, ScottishPower's £1.56bn bid for Southern was topped by an agreed £1.6bn offer from Southern

Electric, valuing the water company at £10.03 a share. Southern Electric's cash offer is worth 975p a share.

The expectation in the market is that ScottishPower may have to raise its cash offer to £10 but Scottish has insisted that it will only rebid on terms that create value for its shareholders.

Southern Electric hit back at the latest fighting talk from the Scottish camp, saying: "They can huff and puff as much as they like. The simple

fact is that we have a higher and agreed offer on the table."

Meanwhile South West pledged that it would continue to deliver value for customers and shareholders in the face of the "unsolicited and unwelcome" bid approaches from Wessex Water and Severn Trent.

The two bids will not be ruled on by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission until the end of September and it is likely to be November before the water industry regulator, Ian By-

att, has decided what level of customer rebates he will require in return for allowing either bid.

South West has begun building its defences, posting a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits before exceptional restructuring costs to £109m and announcing a more generous dividend policy. The company had been committed to raising the payout by 3-4 per cent a year in real terms but yesterday indicated that this would now be lifted to 5-6 per cent.

## Traders warned on stamp duty

PETER RODGERS  
Financial Editor

The Securities and Investments Board said yesterday that it was not a foregone conclusion that the Stock Exchange's current proposals for reform of the stock market would gain stamp duty relief for traders.

Last week Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that in principle stamp duty concessions could continue in the new market and he asked SIB to produce a consultation document outlining how firms could qualify for it.

The Government is prepared to accept a reduction in the £1.2bn it receives from stamp duty and in the long term may phase it out altogether.

But a SIB consultation document indicated the intention was to produce a stamp duty regime that fitted the Stock Exchange, TradePoint and any other trading services that might enter the London market.

SIB said: "Because this is a genuine consultation document we are considering the possibility that the way the Stock Exchange is thinking is not the most convincing."

The SIB consultation period finishes on 20 June, two weeks ahead of the Exchange's consultations on the new market, which began yesterday with the publication of detailed plans.

A key component of the Exchange electronic order book trading system will be a new category of firm called Registered Principle Traders who will be obliged to buy and sell stock to keep the market liquid, in return for certain benefits including stamp duty concessions.

These traders will take orders from customers on the telephone, but at prices set on a new electronic order book which will handle the top 100 stocks.

The order book replaces the market-making system by automatically matching buyers and sellers. But the Exchange has tackled the problem of how to keep the market ticking over when stock is short by suggesting the idea of registered traders who must step in to help when needed.

The key problem for SIB is drawing up a watertight definition of what makes a firm qualify for stamp duty relief that applies to any exchange.

It is considering alternatives to the registered trader proposal for maintaining liquidity at difficult times.

## Gene Schneider poised to start Irish cables humming

MATTHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

The US cable TV giant United International Holdings, controlled by the legendary cable pioneer Gene Schneider, is poised to launch an Irish channel in the UK, in league with the Irish state broadcaster RTE and UK media company Riordan Communications.

RTE would provide the programming and may even take an equity stake. Its board was

yesterday debating the investment, which could be confirmed within the next week.

It emerged last night that Flextech, the cable and satellite programme packager, had considered backing the venture, but was not convinced it would succeed.

Sponsors of the new channel, dubbed Tara, are also in negotiations with the three leading cable operators to arrange carriage, including the UK's largest, Telewest. The aim is to

launch into the crowded cable market in the autumn.

The new channel is aimed primarily at a potential audience of up to 8 million expatriate and first-generation Irish who live in Britain, and will broadcast a mix of soaps, drama, comedy, music and news from 12 noon to midnight daily, taken from RTE's schedule. The Irish broadcaster spends £120m a year on programmes.

The Irish service will be also be available in Australia, Canada and South Africa, its backers say.

In the end, it hopes to be able to reach a significant proportion of the Irish diaspora, which could total 50 million worldwide.

The launch marks the first UK foray of Mr Schneider, whose company is listed in New York and capitalised at nearly \$500m.

Mr Schneider, the 69-year-old "entrepreneur's entrepreneur", designed and built the first US

cable system in Wyoming in 1953, and spent the next 30 years developing what would become a 1.1 million-subscriber network in 17 states. He sold out to TCI's John Malone, one of America's hooa fide media barons, in 1989, for \$2bn, and kept \$100m worth of TCI stock for himself. Since then, he has built an international network of cable and satellite investments that now spans 23 countries, including Israel, Australia and countries in Latin America.

Mr Schneider and Mr Malone, who are both based in Denver, Colorado, have done several deals together, including one infamous exchange that saw Mr Schneider buy international cable assets from Mr Malone for \$85m, only to sell back a fraction of the holdings at a considerable premium, using the rest of the assets as a platform for to expand his operations overseas.

Mr Schneider is famously press-shy, particularly since a

heart attack in 1992. Known as a trail-blazer, he has been eclipsed in the popularity stakes by entrepreneurs who followed him - men such as John Malone and Wayne Huizenga, the founder of Blockbuster, the video hire giant now owned by Viacom.

Mr Schneider also hobnobs with some of America's best-known media moguls, including Ted Turner, the founder of CNN and a neighbour of Mr Schneider's.

**STOCK MARKETS**

Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3746.70	-29.00	-0.8	3857.10	3639.50	4.03
FTSE 250	4900.00	-14.80	-0.3	4968.60	4015.30	3.35
FTSE 350	1993.50	-12.80	-0.7	1945.40	1816.60	3.88
FT Small Cap	2222.20	-2.84	-0.1	2241.97	1954.06	2.92
FT All Share	1884.42	-11.87	-0.6	1924.17	1791.95	3.80
New York	5671.98	-1.84	-0.0	5778.00	5032.94	2.15
Tokyo	21886.35	-195.15	-0.9	22282.05	19734.70	0.721
Hong Kong	11157.07	-43.49	-0.4	11894.99	10204.87	3.271
Frankfurt	2527.31	-24.14	-0.9	2570.78	2253.36	1.861

Source: FT Information

## INTEREST RATES

### Short sterling\*

### UK medium gilt

### US long bond

\* 1980 rates lowest on chart

† January 15, 1984

### Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year
UK	6.10	6.44
US	5.38	6.88
Japan	0.50	0.94
Germany	3.25	3.38

### Bond Yields \*

Index	3 Month	6 Month	9 Month
UK	6.17	7.90	8.26
US	6.83	6.22	6.97
Japan	3.20	2.80	-
Germany	6.50	6.61	7.12

\* Bankers' indices

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Eurochem Plc	91	4	Barford Hedges	133	0	0
White Cartman Grp	164	6	Natl Express Grp	497	0	0
Tomkins	256	8	Monuments (UK) Caspers	3	0	0

**CURRENCIES**

Pair	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5346	+1.53c	1.5911
\$ (New York)	1.5345	+2.25c	1.5975
DM (London)	2.3515	+0.0001	2.2645
¥ (London)	166.123	-0.0088	135.988
£ Index	85.7	+0.3	84.8

**OTHER INDICATORS**

Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago
Oil Brent	18.43	-0.19	17.66
Gold	381.55	+0.05	384.30
Gold 2	255.02	-2.53	241.53
Base Rates	-	-	6.00pc

## Swissair pressed to table bid for Alders

Pressure mounted yesterday on Swissair actually to table its proposed £145m offer for Alders International or withdraw from the increasingly acrimonious battle for control of the duty free shop operator, writes Tom Stevenson.

Shareholders are due to vote on 10 June on BAA's recommended £130m bid, currently the only firm offer. It emerged yesterday that early approaches from BAA had put a value of only £100m on the tax-free retailing chain, while approaches from Swissair had swung from an initial price-tag of £200m to a tentative offer

of £120m before the airline proposed an offer of £145m.

Confusion about the value of the business, which lost £1m in the six months to March, has focused attention on the fiduciary duty of Alders' management to accept the best offer for its shareholders. Alders claims it has done its duty by securing £130m for a business which has an uncertain future after the abolition of duty free within Europe after 1999. Swissair says it has been locked out, despite being prepared to offer £15m more than BAA's bid.

Comment, page 21



## Alders plays a good hand over the duty-free



The proposed sale by Alders of its duty-free business is a small enough deal – not at all the usual stuff of controversy. Swissair is making it so, however. Its demand that its £143m offer for Alders' duty-free business be put to shareholders is causing quite a stir. The department store group's management has a fiduciary duty to its owners to secure the best offer for the retail chain. And Swiss Air is promising £15m more for the business than the price already agreed with BAA.

Alders was bulldozed into recommending the BAA offer, the argument goes, because the airport owner, by petulantly announcing its intention to end the Alders management contract at nine months' notice, threatened to make the operation even less viable than it is already.

But while it is always nice to find a reason to have a go at a wicked monopolist like BAA, in this case the argument doesn't bear much scrutiny. First, Alders had a fairly stark choice on Friday 17 May, when its deadline for bids expired, between a real offer of £130m from BAA and a far from copper-bottomed promise of a bid from Swissair. Having suggested it might offer as much as £200m before scaling back its estimate to just £120m during the process, Swissair had hardly behaved in a way that would instil any confidence in its ability to come up with the goods.

Second, management (and shareholders) were rightly quite chuffed to have bid BAA up to £130m from early soundings of £100m. This is a company, after all, about to lose a significant chunk of its business in 1999 when duty-free within the European Union is abolished. In those circumstances, £130m in the bag was a pretty satisfactory prospect.

Far from painting themselves into an embarrassing corner, Alders' management appears to have played a reasonably good game of poker, using the spectre of Swissair to weaken BAA's otherwise strong hand and extract a sensible price for a business it quite clearly wants out of.

Alders will have to go through the motions of backing BAA, because the contract it has signed says it has to. But in truth it will be as happy as anyone to accept the higher offer. If, as seems likely, this is nothing but Swiss bluster, investors can relax, knowing that the risk of BAA walking away has been eliminated.

### Downside in a glowing report

The Government is rather pleased with the economists at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Although its growth forecast was unsatisfactory

from the Chancellor's point of view, Mr Clarke himself could scarcely have written a more glowing end-of-term report on his own management of the economy.

Indeed, some of the choicest phrases in yesterday's annual report on the UK economy have a whiff of Whitehall about them. Accolades like "sound foundation for sustained economic recovery", "a more flexible and less inflation-prone economy", and "a better jobs and inflation record" could have been lifted from any of the Chancellor's recent speeches. Only a cynic would suggest that Britain's £10m annual contribution to the OECD budget influences the organisation's assessment.

However, the report is not without its criticisms of macro-economic policy. One observation is that the premium investors demand for holding long-term gilts rather than bonds issued by the US and German governments has increased since late 1994. "One interpretation of these indicators is that there has been scant progress in building long-run UK monetary policy credibility through 1995," the survey concludes. Clearly the markets think prospects for continued growth and low inflation are not as good as the OECD makes out.

Now why is that. The answer lies with what you think Mr Clarke will do with interest rates and the public finances. Will he raise

interest rates later this year if the balance of evidence from the economic statistics tilts towards higher inflation? Will he stick to published spending plans and match tax cuts with further spending cuts in his pre-election Budget. Or will he cut interest rates willy-nilly and repeat last year's trick of putting the improvement in the public finances off for another year? The markets think the latter. And you know what? They are probably right.

### Texas twist to Hinchliffe saga

For a businessman whose company, Facia, is privately owned, Stephen Hinchliffe generates an awful lot of column inches. Serious business people must be finding it all a bit galling, for there are presumably plenty of more important, interesting and successful entrepreneurs that could be written about. But no, for the moment Mr Hinchliffe wins hands down in the publicity stakes. In part this is explained by the expectation that this curious rag-bag collection of other people's left-overs will one day attempt to go public. A chequered business history, the fact that he and his finance director face proceedings by the DTI for disqualification as directors, and the odd rumble from credi-

tors, adds spice to the brew. Now there's a new twist. A company called Texas American Group, an outfit even more incredible than Facia itself, is planning a bid. At least, Facia has the merit of being a quite substantial retailing empire, even if it is made up of trading names that nobody else wanted. Texas is not even that. There's the obligatory golf course (a must for any aspiring leisure empire), some time-share properties in the Canary Islands, and a few hotels. Then there's William Grosvener, who most people know as a PR man. He's chief executive.

The company's most valuable asset, it seems, is a Nasdaq share quote in the United States. This it plans to use liberally in the acquisition of Facia, both as a method of buying the company from Mr Hinchliffe and other shareholders, and as a way of refinancing the business. All this is dependent on a satisfactory two way audit. Mr Hinchliffe wants to satisfy himself that Texas is for real and Texas wants to satisfy itself that Facia is for real. So there you are. If it works, the seemingly unthinkable – Facia going public – gets to happen after all, albeit in the United States. As for what happens to Mr Hinchliffe, who knows? Does he get to stay or will he be off to pastures new? All will no doubt be revealed in the next exciting instalment of "Hinchliffe: Britain's most written-about businessman".

## Woolwich close to pension deal with ex-chief Robinson

NIC CICUTTI

Peter Robinson, the former Woolwich chief executive dramatically ousted from his post two months ago, is on the verge of clinching a compensation package with the building society that could allow him to immediately draw an annual pension of £165,000.

Alternatively, under current tax laws Mr Robinson could opt to receive a tax-free lump sum of up to £370,000, plus a reduced annual pension of £135,000 a year.

In return, he will abandon a compensation claim based on the two-year notice period to which he would have been entitled to as part of his contract of service.

Lakeland and Paines, solicitors acting for Woolwich, are believed to be on the verge of agreeing that Mr Robinson, aged 54, be allowed his pension without any penalties for early retirement. His normal retirement age would be 62. If a penalty were to apply, his payout could be cut by up to one-third.

The Woolwich pension scheme is based on one sixtieth of salary for every year of service. Mr Robinson, who served almost 33 years with the society, would be entitled to more than half the £300,000 he earned before his sudden departure in the wake of allegations of financial irregularities. The deal, agreed in mid-

line with Mr Robinson's solicitors D J Freeman, must be accepted by the Woolwich board, which is yet to meet to consider the proposals.

It is believed, however, that some last-minute technicalities are unresolved. Once they are, both he and the building society are expected to announce next month they have reached an agreement.

Woolwich is currently under intense takeover speculation ahead of its £3bn flotation, planned for mid-1997. Among those tipped as potential predators are Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, and BAI, the tobacco giant which also owns Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

The society has still to appoint



Robinson: Announcement is expected next month

a permanent chief executive to replace Mr Robinson. The post is currently being filled by his predecessor Donald Kirkham, who stepped in at the society's request in early April.

The most recent suggested replacement is Andrew Longhurst, chief executive at Cheltenham & Gloucester, the former building society now owned by Lloyds Bank. Mr Longhurst is said to be unhappy at not being offered a seat on the Lloyds board.

A Woolwich spokesman said: "We have always said that any appointment was weeks rather than months away. We are talking to a number of people."

Mr Robinson's departure followed allegations of improper use of company resources. It was alleged that he had used society gardeners to carry out work on the grounds of his £450,000 home in Kent.

Sources at the Woolwich also claimed that Mr Robinson had wrongly authorised the use of a Range Rover for a member of his family and that unpaid decorating work had been carried out inside his house.

However, Mr Robinson strongly denied all the accusations, claiming that he was the victim of a smear campaign against him by disgruntled Woolwich employees who did not like his management style.

### IN BRIEF

• Air France is in talks with at least four major U.S. airlines about a possible transatlantic alliance and hopes to have an agreement signed by the end of the year, the French state-owned airline confirmed yesterday. Talks are most advanced with American Airlines, United Airlines, Delta and Continental, a spokeswoman said. Exploratory talks have been under way for some time, she added, but it was too early to speculate about what firm the alliance might take. Air France, which hopes to be privatised in late 1997 or early 1998, is also exploring areas of co-operation with Asian carriers. But the loss-making carrier, which has been fighting its way back to financial health through big cost cuts and productivity measures, said in April that any alliance would probably be a commercial one such as a code-sharing agreement, rather than an equity investment.

• Foreign & Colonial, the investment group, said yesterday that it is in talks to sell part or all of the 50 per cent stake in the fund management subsidiary it owns to Bayerische Hypo Bank, one of Germany's largest banks, which already owns the other half. The deal, which F&C stressed was still in its initial stages, could be worth up to £125m to the five F&C trusts that collectively hold half of Hypo Foreign & Colonial Management through a wholly owned company, Pountney Hill Holdings. The trusts have appointed Lazard Brothers to advise on the sale. HFCM is one of the fastest-growing fund management companies and recently completed the purchase of ESN, the electricity industry's £14.4bn pension fund. However, F&C admits that, unlike its German partner, it has tended to view HFCM more as a passive investment.

• South Korea's Samsung is cutting semiconductor production by 15 per cent in what is being seen as an attempt to slow the decline in world chip prices. The company said its decision to cut the monthly output of its 16 megabit DRAM to 12m units from 14m reflects the sharp downturn in international chip prices. An electronics analyst said: "Samsung's plan just reflects how desperate the chip makers are." Samsung is the world's largest producer of memory chips, which are widely used in personal computers.

• General Motors plans to invest \$750m in a vehicle plant in Thailand. Donald Sullivan, president of GM's Asian and Pacific Operations, said that both Thailand and the Philippines were excellent locations. "However, in the final analysis, Thailand was our preferred location because of the strength of the domestic vehicle market, proven infrastructure and well-established supplier base," he said.

• Shares in International Service System, the Danish cleaning group, plunged on news of a big increase in provisions at its troubled US unit. ISS said it may have to make provisions and charges totalling \$100m to cover insurance liabilities and overstated earnings at the US subsidiary, whose chief financial officer has already left the company. ISS added it was unable to forecast full year profits due to the current uncertain outlook.

• The US economy grew at a slower pace than the government previously estimated in the first quarter as businesses shrank their stockpiles of unsold goods for the first time on four years. Gross domestic product, the total amount of goods and services, rose at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent, the Commerce department said.

## Tomkins acts to halt slide in share price

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Tomkins has moved to scotch rumours that its planned \$1.16bn acquisition of US automotive products business Gates Rubber is on the rocks.

Yesterday it also promised shareholders a 15 per cent dividend hike for the year to April in an unusual attempt to halt the recent slide in its share price.

Worried by the company's apparent failure to complete the Gates acquisition, announced six months ago, the market had pushed the shares from a high of 294p in January to 247p this week.

Greg Hutchings, chairman, said the acquisition of Gates, a privately owned automotive products maker, had proved more complicated than anticipated. He thought it was the

first time a public company from the UK had attempted to buy a private US company with preference shares. The lack of a precedent had caused a mountain of regulatory work.

No promises were made about when the deal would be sewn up, but Mr Hutchings hoped to be able to announce completion within a few weeks. The delay had meant that Tomkins was unable to give its

usual briefing to analysts before its close season and the lack of information had led to the shares' recent weakness.

As well as promising the higher dividend, the 13th consecutive rise of at least 15 per cent, Tomkins said it would report profits of at least £320m in July. That was in line with market expectations and the shares bounced 8p to close at 255p yesterday. Mr Hutchings accom-

panied news of the proposed dividend rise with a warning that had weather had hit some of its markets, especially holding back US lawnmower sales in the important March and April buying months.

Tomkins has been one of the FT-SE 100's steadiest performers in recent years but has fought a constant battle to overcome adverse City sentiment. Investment Column, page 23

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## Facia in balance as talks continue

NIGEL COPE

The future ownership of Facia, the retail empire controlled by Stephen Hinchliffe, remained uncertain last night after the company claimed it was in talks with several parties regarding possible deals.

The statement appears to contradict claims made by Texas American Group, a quoted US shell company, which says it has reached an agreement to acquire the assets and liabilities of Facia, which owns high street names including Sock Shop, Salisbury's, Saxe and Freeman Hardy Willis.

Though Facia confirmed talks have taken place with Texas American, it said the agreement "was not a done deal".

Facia stressed that it is also doing due diligence on Texas as well as vice versa. This appeared to leave the door open on a reverse takeover which would see Facia take control of Texas, enabling Mr Hinchliffe's group to gain a stock market listing in the US as well as access to much needed funds.

Texas is a shell company which has recorded no sales or profits for the past three years. Its chief executive is William Grosvener, a London public relations consultant. "We have an agreed deal with Facia pending a valuation."

He added that if the deal goes through the company would seek to raise funds on the US stock market to invest in Facia. The plan is for Mr Hinchliffe to remain a shareholder and play a role in running the business.

Comment, page 21



## market report/shares

## Speculators marry off Asda and Argyll on a dull day

TAKING STOCK

## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100  
3,746.7-29.0

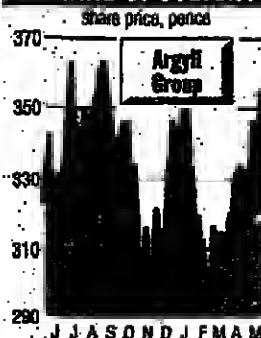
FT-SE 250  
4,500.0-14.8

FT-SE 350  
1,898.9-12.8

SEAQ VOLUME  
676.5m shares,  
32,439 bargains

Gilt Index  
91.74 -0.50

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



A rumoured superstore merger captured the imagination of the more alert speculators as, on a dull day, the inevitable intriguing story hovered a little below the surface just waiting to be discovered.

The talk was that Asda and Argyll Group were thinking of linking to create the nation's super retailing chain, outstripping the current front-runners, Sainsbury and Tesco.

Asda, up 1p at 119p, lingered just below its recent peak; Argyll, the Safeway chain, rose 2p to 346.5p, with a hailing distance of its 12-month high.

Whitehall. It was the sort of day when stock market imagination often runs riot and the Asda/Argyll story may be no exception. But there is no doubt something stronger than a sneaking suspicion exists that Mr Norman, after his Asda success, has a significant corporate deal up his sleeve.

Of all the supermarket chains Asda and Argyll have a related approach and could find merging a relatively painless exercise.

The rest of the market was in a dismal retreat with the FT-SE 100 index off 29 points at 3,746.7. The closeness of the Israeli election, new problems for President Clinton and the feeling US interest rate will move higher combined to undermine sentiment.



## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

cline piled on the agony. British Gas had another day of recovery, climbing 5p to 189.5p. SBC Warburg was behind the latest advance. The securities house decided to ignore the current climate and put Gas back on its buy list. It takes the view the pipeline company could be worth 216p and the rumour somewhere between 24p and 62p.

Other utilities took a breather after this week's heavy excitement and even Southern Water seemed too tired to respond to suggestions ScottishPower would return with a higher offer, falling 5p to 98.2p.

hotel group, was again busily traded with volume put at 19.5 million. The shares shaded 1p to 190p. The heavy trading, if not the share price, indicates corporate action. A deal with the US Hilton Hotels Corporation or a take over from Bass remain the market's favoured options.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch group, was ruffled by the threat of another round of price cutting from Procter & Gamble, the US giant. The shares fell 15p to 121.1p.

Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, edged forward 3p to 185p on a US analyst's visit and Camas the building materials group,

moved 1.5p to 86.5p on analyst meetings.

Hanson slipped 2.5p to 189p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett has put a 213p valuation on the soon-to-be-demerged group. Tomkins, the buns to guns conglomerate, forecast better-than-expected profits and dividends and lifted the shares 5p to 256p.

Inchcape, the international trading group, gained 5p to 266p. NatWest Securities described the shares as "cheap". Vendome fell 18p to 62.7p as the expected bid from Richmond failed to materialise.

Amey, the construction group, bounded 17p to 293p. Schroders investment arm has acquired 9.3 per cent. The shares have recently been galvanised by a British Rail maintenance contract.

Newcomer Whitcross, the market's first dentist, traded at 95p against an 84p placing level. Recognition Systems, a

computer group placed at 77p, gained a further 11p to 121p.

World Fluids, which has said it is near to completing a substantial acquisition, rose 0.5p to 5.25p and bid speculation lifted Chesterton International, the property consultant, 10p to 120p. Barbour Index, a specialist information group, gained 30p to 425p with vague talk of bid activity in the air.

The sharp little scrap over Brightstone Properties ended with bidder Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, a former sweet maker, winning acceptance with an increased offer of £9.22m. Agreement means a proposed Brightstone link with ubiquitous entrepreneur Luke Johnson had been abandoned.

Highbury House Communications, the former Harrison Kilbride, continued its recent intriguing run, gaining 1.5p to 22p. The publisher was rescued last year through a cash call.

□ The mid-paid convertible units of Bstoc, the brick group, rose 2.5p to 6p, a peak on hopes the proposed acquisition of Rodmans' brick business will not be blocked by Whitehall. The convertibles are probably the highest priced in the market, offering the right to buy a share at 55p against the current price of 67p. Most observers believe if Bstoc's deal goes through, making it Britain's biggest brick maker, its shares should quickly pull away from 67p.

□ Independent Energy, selling electricity to business users, could enjoy a significant premium when dealing start today. Placed at 100p the shares could head towards 120p. The £3.2m raised through the placing, by stockbroker Peel Hunt, will be used to expand its marketing and sales muscle.

Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Asda	119.0	+1.0	119.0	118.0	100
Argyll	346.5	+2.0	346.5	344.5	50
Bacchus	12.5	+0.5	12.5	12.0	20
Beck's	15.0	+0.5	15.0	14.5	10
Brewery	18.0	+0.5	18.0	17.5	10
Carlsberg	20.0	+0.5	20.0	19.5	10
Heineken	22.0	+0.5	22.0	21.5	10
King	24.0	+0.5	24.0	23.5	10
Miller	26.0	+0.5	26.0	25.5	10
Stout	28.0	+0.5	28.0	27.5	10
Tesco	30.0	+0.5	30.0	29.5	10
Wolfe	32.0	+0.5	32.0	31.5	10

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# Profits bounce back at LIG

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

The recent history of London International will give encouragement to those who still preach the virtues of business focus. LIG's massive losses in 1993/94 were due to the sale of an ill-starred diversification into photographic processing and hefty provisions to enable the group to be rebuilt on the foundations of its original Durex condoms to rubber gloves business. Even after a £115m rights issue at 70p, there were sceptics aplenty two years ago who said that new management led by chief executive Nick Hodges still faced an uphill task in setting the group to rights. But their doubts are rapidly being proved misplaced.

Yesterday, LIG reported pre-tax profits lifted 72 per cent to £26.2m for the year to March, the second of the new management's promised three year recovery programme. The group looks on target to meet its aim of a 15 per cent operating return by next July. Last year's 10.1 per cent margin (see table) would have been 11 per cent but for continuing problems in making the new Avanti polyurethane condom, which accounted for an additional £3.1m of costs.

The cost savings promised in 1994 are also coming through, albeit slowly. Around half of last year's £4.6m savings are said to have come through from the £45m plant rationalisation programme, with possibly up to £3m more to come. There should be further benefits from the £8m shake-up at Aladen, the US consumer and surgical gloves group acquired for £46m in April into which the existing US operations are now being poured.

But with most of the unwanted brands like Wrights Coal Tar Soap and Woodward's grip water gone, the main part of the restructuring is now over and the market is increasingly looking to where LIG goes from here.

The marketing budget, starved under the old regime, is rapidly being restored, climbing 37 per cent to £31.4m last year. As a result, volumes contributed around a third of last year's 15 per cent underlying rise in condom sales to £117m. That is around 1 percentage point ahead of the growth in the market, which is an impressive performance for the world leader. At around 22 per cent, LIG already has close to double the share of its nearest rival so against the background of slow growth in the overall market, LIG needs to show that it can continue to both push through price increases and maintain its thrust into new markets like the Far East, Latin America and eastern Europe.

New products like Avanti - stronger and less smelly than latex condoms - and the Biogel Neotech non-latex,

powder-free medical glove should also help margins, if not sales. But assuming profits hit £38.5m this year, the shares, 3p higher at 153p, are well up with events on a forward p/e of 20.

### Tomkins offers reassurance

Tomkins has had an extremely trying first half to 1996. Having seemingly won the long uphill struggle to convince the market of the merits of its purchase of REIM, its failure to do the 1's and cross the 1's of its latest big deal, the £500m acquisition of automotive products group Gates, and the market's mistrust of conglomerates in the wake of a profit warning from BTR, have conspired to clobber the shares.

Having started the year not far short of 300p, they had fallen as low as 247p by the middle of the week, when the decision was taken to try to stem the slide with a reassuring trading and dividend statement.

It appears to have done the trick -

the shares bounced 8p to 255p yesterday as investors were reminded that a better-than-expected dividend rise of 15 per cent to 9.95p would represent the 13th consecutive rise in the payout of at least 15 per cent.

As far as trading is concerned there were no real surprises. Bad weather hit the important March/April lawnmower buying season in the US, but that had been expected.

Forecast profits of £320m were bang in line with market expectations and confirmed that Tomkins is a long way from being one of the lumbering dinosaurs that Hanson and BTR have evolved into.

It may do itself no favours in the City by refusing to bow to the altar of focus, as Williams has done, but it can produce a fairly compelling statistical argument that its spread of activities works.

Reassured that the Gates deal is back on track, if a bit delayed, investors can re-focus on Tomkins' plentiful attractions. Unlike BTR, for example, it is still small enough to grow meaningfully, it has little exposure to the difficult markets of Europe and Australia, and a

strong balance sheet. It would be wrong to forget also that the company is one of only five on the London market to have increased its dividend by more than 15 per cent for the past 10 years. On the basis of forecast profits of £442m to next April, the shares at 255p stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of only 12, backed up by a forward yield of 5.5 per cent. Very good value.

### M&G's crown slips askew

M&G once had a claim to be described as the Marks & Spencer of the retail savings industry. But unlike the retailer, M&G's crown has been slipping a little of late. On the face of it, yesterday's 18 per cent rise in interim profits to £1.2m for the six months to March was respectable enough and M&G's shares dipped just 8p to £11.96. Gross sales of unit and investment trusts scored by £161m, or 41 per cent, to £558m in the period, helping M&G retain its position as market leader in the sector. But maintaining this leading role has been achieved at some cost. In January 1994, the group dropped the traditional "front-end" charge on its key PEP products to revive flagging sales.

That has clearly had the desired effect, although M&G had a following wind from a booming stock market and a buoyant unit and investment trust market. It also had the benefit in the latest six months of the launch of the M&G Equity Investment Trust, which pulled in £156m of new funds, including £131m in Peps.

In all, funds under management were 25 per cent higher at £15.3bn over the past year, which looks impressive until you compare it against rivals. Perpetual has seen funds grow by a massive 60 per cent a year over the past five, admittedly from a low base.

M&G has done well with its unused institutional fund management side, which added £355m of new money in the six months and now represents well over a third of the total. Early signs of the long-awaited recovery in life and pensions is also good news.

But M&G faces a number of problems. Margins are clearly increasing under pressure, the performance of its funds has been less than sparkling and, perhaps most seriously, a flood of retail money into unit trusts is usually a sure sign of the end of a bull market. Pre-exceptional profits of £73m this year would put the shares on a forward rating of 18. High enough.

# Warburg kicks the ball around with bets on euro

## CITY DIARY

NIGEL COPE

Economists at SBC Warburg have clearly had a bit of time on their hands recently. They have turned their thoughts to the impending European football championships, weaving in a dash of political and economic comment on all the participating nations. It is all neatly packaged in the bank's newly published *Euro '96 Special*.

But using a deft piece of footwork even Gazza would be proud of, it has used the football tournament as a metaphor for monetary union, pondering the chances of the various countries achieving the criteria for monetary union by 1999.

England comes bottom with a 10 per cent chance (jointly with Greece) while Germany is seen as the most likely with a 90 per cent probability. As for the footie, the economists are tipping Spain to beat the Netherlands in the final with England reaching the quarter-final stages. Rather disloyally they reckon Switzerland won't make it past the preliminary stages.

Tony Knox, the chairman of City PR firm Financial Dynamics, is recovering at home after a triple by-pass heart operation. Mr Knox, 50, went into hospital last Wednesday and is expected to be away from City spin-doctoring for three to four weeks. The operation comes



Doing a Gazza: Warburg ousts England in the quarter-final

as a surprise to many who know Tony as a fit fellow who regularly works out and wields a mean racket on the tennis court. FD says "he's fine and making a good recovery."

Meanwhile, the company is on the verge of signing a deal with its French majority shareholder which will see the French company buy out the directors who own 35 per cent of the company. It will then introduce a scheme that will distribute the company's shares more widely among the staff. In other words, wonga all round.

Yorkshire Water, the company that would struggle to run a bath even if it did have any water, has a fresh

set of problems to contend with. It is being blamed for a decline in local tourism. The reason is that holidaymakers have been shying away from the region for fear that local hotels and guesthouses will be affected by water restrictions. "They don't want to find themselves bathing in a bucket," one local said.

Sir Desmond Pitcher of United Utilities is well known for his confidence in his own abilities. He has now taken to making up new words. In the company's results presentation yesterday he referred to the country's "abnormal" weather conditions over the last year. Does he mean abnormal, or extraordinary? Or both?



Maria Reinshagen (pictured right) was named as vice-chairman of Christie's Europe yesterday. The appointment makes her the most senior woman in the auction house's European operations. The promotion is the Swiss businesswoman's second barrier-breaking appointment. In 1994 she was the first woman to be appointed to the board of UBS.

Ms Reinshagen is described as "an effective business-getter" and has been running Christie's office in Zurich. In her 18 years with the company she has been involved in several record-breaking sales. In 1990, one of her clients narrowly missed out in the bidding for the Van Gogh portrait of his physician, Dr Gachet. At \$82m it remains the most expensive work of art ever sold at auction.

Ms Reinshagen was one of three vice-chairmen announced by Christie's yesterday. The others are Francois Curjel and John Lunley.

# Redland gives warning after harsh winter

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Rudolph Agnew celebrated his first annual meeting as chairman of building materials group Redland with a profits warning, confirming the difficult conditions affecting the construction industry in the UK and Europe.

"This year the picture is further clouded by the appalling weather conditions during the winter throughout Europe which have depressed first-quarter results substantially," he told shareholders.

"These conditions lasted until the end of February in the UK and the end of March in continental Europe. Since then, volumes have returned to around expected levels although the underlying level is still slightly below last year in most European operating companies".

Redland's shares fell 8p to

close at 398p on the news as Mr Agnew added: "The poor start to the year is expected to lead to group profits in the first half being well down on 1995 levels." He thought the second half would be broadly in line with the same period last year.

Last year, first-half profits amounted to £165m; for the full year they were £373m.

Mr Agnew told shareholders that he expected a recovery in the UK housing market to lead to improved volumes in the second half. German housing permits had also stabilised after falling 25 per cent over the year. Recent data suggested there had been a modest recovery in permits in the west of Germany.

The gloomy trading news from Redland followed a period of intense corporate restructuring which had seen the company sell its UK brick business to Istock for £160m, a deal which is expected to be completed in July.

The group's roofing interests have also been reorganised with the creation of Redland Braas Building, which combines the existing businesses of Redland's German associate with its own operations in Britain, France, the Netherlands and other European countries. RBB will be the world's largest roof-tiling business with a 30 per cent market share in Europe.

Redland has come through a torrid start to the 1990s when it struggled with weak construction markets and high debts, partly incurred by overpaying for rival materials group Steetley. Shareholders ended up suffering a dividend cut in two stages, from 25p to 16.7p.

Analysts believe it is now in better shape, however, with £220m in cash from the Braas restructuring and gearing of only 24 per cent putting it in a better position to concentrate on its core businesses.



Rudolph Agnew: Warned that first-half profits would be down on the previous year

# Boom in PEPs benefits M&G

NIC CICUTTI

Strong global equity markets and booming sales of unit trusts and personal equity plans helped M&G, one of the largest UK fund managers, to post an 18 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £34.4m.

The increase followed a 25 per cent rise to £15.3bn in the group's funds under management compared with the same period last year.

However, M&G's share of the unit trust market dipped from 10.9 to 10.2 per cent. Sir David Money-Coutts, group chairman at M&G, said: "Over the six-month period, [our] revenue grew by 14 per cent to £70m, a record high for the Group. The increase was mainly in our annual fee revenue and was the result of the rise in the FT-SE All Share Index over the period."

Sir David added: "We... expect the balance of our revenues to shift in favour of annual fees away from initial charges."

In recent years, M&G has moved away from levying initial charges on its PEPs. If policyholders dispose of their invest-

ment they face exit charges on a sliding scale. Compensation payments of about £200,000 each were made to Tony Shearer and Alan Oddie, former chief operating officer and managing director of M&G's life and pensions arm respectively.

Mr Shearer left in January after a clash of personalities with managing director David Morgan. Mr Oddie departed in March after his operations area was amalgamated with the unit trust business. M&G stressed yesterday that the payments were part of the group's obligations to both employees, who were on 12-month contracts.

David Watson, finance director, said that sales of PEPs and unit trusts had been affected by new competition and a combination of the rising popularity of index-tracking and guaranteed funds. M&G had invested in smaller companies and recovery stocks, impacting slightly on performance and on sales.

The continuing economic recovery should ensure improving returns from M&G's portfolio of recovery stocks, Mr Watson said.

# Cortecs blood kit approved in US

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Cortecs International, the fledgling biotechnology group, took another step towards maturity yesterday after announcing it had received US approval for its rapid blood diagnostic kit.

The shares gained 9p to 369p as the green light from the powerful Food & Drug Administration opens up the world's largest market for the Helisal kits, which test for the presence of Helicobacter pylori, the bug associated with duodenal and gastric ulcers.

Using a pin-prick blood sample given in a doctor's surgery, Helisal can within five minutes give a test for the bacteria equivalent to that available from a laboratory, Cortecs

claims. Once the bug has been identified, duodenal ulcers can be treated relatively rapidly with drugs like Astra's Losec. The market for the kit is worth an estimated \$100m to \$150m, the company believes.

Cortecs has been selling the kits in the UK for the past two years and they are now said to be generating a "seven-figure" turnover. It has also been launched in around 25 countries around the world following the signature of a marketing deal with Boehringer Mannheim, a German pharmaceutical group,

which will also handle sales of Helisal in the US. However, it faces competition from two domestic producers of rival kits, including one marketed by Abbott Diagnostics. Cortecs hopes to have a second-generation, single-step kit on the market later this year and wants to introduce a non-invasive product based on saliva.

Separately, Chiroscience announced shareholders had taken up 78.7 per cent of the shares offered in its recent £40.3m placing and open offer.

# Cellphone newcomer signs up Orange

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

European Telecom, the international distributor of cellular phones and accessories, has added Orange to its list of suppliers, from July, the company announced yesterday.

The news came as the company confirmed it was placing 9.6 million shares at 115p in a flotation, which is expected to raise £6.5m million.

is underwritten by Singer & Friedlander, and is aimed at reducing debt and providing capital to underwrite further expansion.

Deals in European Telecom, which operates in around 50 countries, are due to start in London on 6 June. European Telecom supplies 1,400 customers, including leading manufacturers Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola. Sales last year were £78.5m.

The company was founded by Warren Hardy, who will retain about 70 per cent of the shares, worth about £29.5m. Based near Heathrow Airport, its sales have risen from just £170,000 in 1991 to £78.5m last year, while profits have grown from £6,000 to £2,44m.

The company aims to ride the boom in the sale of products for the mobile market, particularly in countries such as Italy where growth rates have been very high. The introduction of digital equipment, al-

lowing free roaming from country to country and far more reliable connections, has given the market an added boost, telecoms analysts say. There are also high expectations for so-called wireless office technology, allowing fax and other data exchange using cellular links.

The liberalisation of the European telecoms market from 1998 is also expected to give a boost to equipment suppliers and manufacturers.

## IN BRIEF

• Alpha Airports has warned of a decline in first-half profits as a result of losses in its US kitchens and a lower spend per passenger on flight catering. The flight services and retail group told its annual meeting, however, that it had seen an 8 per cent increase in the number of passengers passing through airports in which it operates. Alpha also said the airport operator BAA had pledged not to discontinue its management contracts to run duty-free operations for retailers Alders at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports if BAA buys the Alders business.

• Whitecross, the first quoted dentist, made a reasonable start to trading on AIM yesterday. Although the shares failed to live up to recent break-neck market debuts, they moved up to an 11p premium, finding a level of 95p in thin trade. The company raised just £825,000 with the issue of 982,143 shares at 84p. The cash will be used to fund the group's expansion. It plans to open nine new London surgeries.

• Ransomes, the Ipswich-based lawnmower manufacturer, returned to the dividend list at the half-way stage. Interim results showed a 10 per cent rise in sales to £102.9m from which profits of £6.7m (£5m) were struck. After a rise in earnings per share from 1.9p to 3p, a 0.5p dividend is to be paid.

• Jefferson Smurfit Group said it expected the sharp fall in demand for most of its products to result in a difficult 1996. The weak economies of much of Europe in the first half of the year had also led to a fall-off in product prices, the paper group told its annual meeting. In the US, demand for the first quarter was poor, with most product prices showing sharp declines. Its Latin American companies also suffered from the effects of both low US demand and lower pricing. Profits, however, have held up well there, it said. Results have been mixed in the UK and Ireland, but the company can look forward to a more positive second half of the year, the company said.

• PowerGen has appointed Colin Short as deputy chairman with effect from the company's annual meeting on 15 July. Mr Short is chairman of United Biscuits.

• House of Fraser directors faced criticism for its poor profit performance and its marketing strategy from shareholders attending yesterday's annual general meeting. "House of Fraser stores are dull," said one shareholder, while another said they were visually unexciting and lacking in innovation when compared with competitors such as Marks & Spencer and Burton's Debenhams chain. The chairman, Brian McGowan, said the current financial year has started "encouragingly" with like-for-like sales for the first 17 weeks of the year up by 5.1 per cent. But he warned that problems with own bought lack-swear and plans to clear old-fashion stocks meant gross margin improvements would not be evident until the second half.

• Quicks Group said profits for the first quarter of 1996 are in line with a very strong corresponding period last year and trading conditions are currently strong. The group told the annual meeting that it had seen an encouraging improvement in new car retail sales from April onwards, while used car sales have continued an upward trend which has been evident since the start of 1996. This was "welcome confirmation that the private buyer is now returning to the market", it added.

## COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Adi Lashere (I)	42.8m (42.1m)	1.8m (1.8m)	3.6p (4.2p)	1.25p (1.25p)
Best Brothers (I)	14.0m (15.2m)	1.7m (2.0m)	9.66p (12.44p)	1.75p (1.75p)
Credit Finance Assets (F)	1.23m (1.04m)	0.57m (0.12m)	7.27p (1.69p)	2p (1p)
Laurens & Borchers (F)	25.9m (23.8m)	0.94m (5.3m)	2.30p (34.7p)	0.20p
London International Group (F)	310m (287m)	75.2m (15.2m)	5.20p (4.02p)	2p (1p)
M&G Group (F)	41.4m (37.0m)	12.3m (8.3m)	58.7p (37.2p)	2.4p (12.6p)
M&G Group (I)	-	21.2m (25.5m)	28.8p (25p)	15p (14p)
Regan Properties (F)	28.0m (19.8m)	2.4m (5.6m)	1.22p (3.33p)	1.1p (1p)
Ransomes (I)	103m (93.5m)	6.7m (5.0m)	3p (1.9p)	0.5p (0.5p)
South West Water (F)	314m (288m)	105m (83.2m)	77.7p (43.7p)	3.5p (27.3p)
Tetrad Group (F)	11.7m (6.70m)	2.1m (1.1m)	5.86p (3.3p)	0.4p (1.94p)
United Utilities (F)	1.84m (1.87m)	0.27m (29.4m)	51.7p (66.9p)	22.66p (25.5p)
Warner Estate Holdings (I)	7.22m (5.83m)	4.86m (3.96m)	7.87p (5.84p)	2p (1.85p)
(F) - Financial (I) - Interests				



## business

## A weakness at the heart of the German solution

It has been another bad week for Hilmar Kopper, the chairman of Deutsche Bank. Kopper-Humboldt-Deutsche, the engineering group in which Deutsche has a 48 per cent stake, has uncovered huge losses that threaten its very survival. Nobody seems to have been more surprised than Deutsche.

Once again, the relationship between German companies, their shareholders and their bankers is coming under intense scrutiny. The country where stakeholders really matter, where owners, managers, bankers and employees are all supposed to have a say in the running of the company, is having a serious attack of self-doubt.

With 15 people, including Paul Hoeschele, KHD's deputy chairman, now under investigation for alleged fraud and embezzlement, a grisly tale appears to be unfolding at the heart of German industry.

The story is becoming an all-too-familiar one, in which only the name of the company in trouble seems to change. Deutsche Bank's image has been badly tarnished in recent years by a series of difficulties involving firms in which it was deeply involved as leader, shareholder or both.

Remember Metallgesellschaft, the engineering and metals group that suddenly discovered huge losses in commodities, and the Schneider property group, whose chairman fled the country when his financial difficulties were discovered? Jürgen Schneider is now in a Frankfurt jail awaiting trial.

Perhaps most serious of all the Deutsche imbroglios, although it was not remotely a criminal case, has been the mess made over the last few years by the management of Daimler-Benz, Germany's most important



INDUSTRY VIEW  
PETER RODGERS

engineering and aerospace group. Last year it lost a whopping DM5.7bn.

At Daimler's annual meeting last week, Mr Kopper was sharply criticised by shareholders for his role in the fall from grace of a company in which Deutsche owns a dominant 24.4 per cent stake. Indeed, Mr Kopper is head of Daimler-Benz's supervisory board, and shareholders took the not unreasonable view that he ought to have known something about the problems earlier.

### Deutsche has fallen down in its role as a large shareholder rather than as banker

It is not just Deutsche's reputation as one of the bluest of blue-chip banks that has been damaged. The series of corporate embarrassments involving the bank have also shown up the weaknesses of the once much-praised German system of corporate governance, and shaken the confidence of some of the enthusiasts for the importing of German methods to the UK.

Many of the Labour Party's stakeholding ideas can be traced back to favourable analyses of the German system for company ownership and control, in which owners share influence with bankers and workers.

Curiously, in the light of his role in recent events, Mr Kopper himself

has been one of the sternest critics of the German system, and a debunker of what he sees as the myths that circulate abroad about the dominant role of the banks in German industry.

This may seem odd, given Deutsche's deep involvement with KHD, Metallgesellschaft, Schneider and Daimler, troubled companies where his bank does indeed have a powerful direct interest. But it is a fact that ownership and influence in German industry are much more

complex than they seem at first sight. So are the banking relationships, in a country where a large proportion of the banks are owned by regional and local governments rather than private shareholders.

The idealised and, until recently, influential view of the German system is that bankers ensure that managers in industry have the finance for long-term investment and are shielded from the short-term pressures that stock markets bring to bear on British and American companies.

They exercise their benevolent influence at two levels: by sitting on supervisory boards and by supplying

finance to the executive management.

Colin Mayer, an Oxford professor and one of the leading researchers in the area, pointed out in a paper last week for the left-of-centre Institute of Public Policy Research that major involvement of the banks in German companies in fact applied to only a small sector of German industry.

The reality is that there are high levels of concentration and control of German companies both by family shareholders and by other companies that own stakes, rather than by banks.

Indeed, it is beginning to look as if the question of bank involvement in German industry is something of a red herring. The significance of Deutsche Bank's problems is that it has fallen down in its role as a large shareholder rather than as banker to the companies in trouble.

The lessons have not been overlooked in Germany. Managers and shareholders are now looking abroad for new ideas to help them overcome the rigidities and inefficiencies of their own system.

At the heart of German corporate governance is the two-tier board. The top tier, or supervisory board, is drawn from a variety of interests, including bankers, shareholders and employees. Since the supervisory board knows the company better than outsiders, it should in theory be in a better position than anyone else to monitor the performance of management.

The case for the German system is that it avoids what one enthusiast called "the expensive absurdity" of having to wait for a hostile takeover bid to get anything done about a management that has gone wrong.



In the critics' spotlight: Hilmar Kopper is facing difficult questions about supervision at Daimler

But after Daimler-Benz, it is hard to take this line of argument very seriously.

There was, of course, never any likelihood of the Conservative government importing two-tier boards to the UK, since opposition to the idea is firmly entrenched throughout British industry.

And despite the rhetoric from the Labour Party about a stakeholder society, there seems little inclination to force-feed British industry on German methods, and the earlier en-

thusiasm among some of the party's policymakers has been discarded.

Alistair Darling, the City spokesman, made clear in a speech last week that Labour was now inclined to build on the British tradition and not try to import German patterns for running companies. In other words, Labour has backed away from radical legislation on corporate governance.

British companies may not be run any better than their counterparts in Germany, but cases such as KHD

make it hard to believe they are significantly worse. As Professor Mayer suggested, the stakeholder bandwagon may even be getting under way in the UK just at the wrong moment.

If anything the flexibility of the British system for running companies, with its higher-tier boards, powerful executive managements and widely dispersed shareholdings, may have some special advantages of its own at a time of accelerating technical change and competition.

#### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Canada	2.1022	11.3	40.07
Germany	2.3375	53.48	158.23
France	2.3375	53.48	158.23
Italy	2.3375	53.48	158.23
Japan	162.1	75.70	225.26
ECU	1.2425	5.1	15.23
Belgium	48.351	12.9	34.28
Netherlands	39.933	15.133	45.930
Denmark	26.518	66.59	197.184
Sweden	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Spain	162.1	75.70	225.26
Portugal	206.48	26.38	78.28
Greece	13.697	9.15	23.34
Switzerland	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Australia	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Hong Kong	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Malaysia	1.5246	9.7	29.21
New Zealand	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Saudi Arabia	1.5246	9.7	29.21
Singapore	1.5246	9.7	29.21

#### Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	15302	0.0988
Australia	1.5246	0.0988
Brazil	15302	0.0988
Canada	2.1022	0.0988
Egypt	5.2787	3.4407
Finland	2.3375	0.0988
Ghana	2.3375	0.0988
India	5.2787	3.4407
Indonesia	1.5246	0.0988
Kenya	1.5246	0.0988

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 333 333.

Cable cost 35p per minute (48p after 10pm).

#### Interest Rates

Country	Rate	1 month	3 months
UK	10.00%		
Germany	8.75%		
France	8.00%		
Italy	10.00%		
Japan	5.00%		
ECU	8.00%		
Belgium	8.00%		
Netherlands	8.00%		
Denmark	8.00%		
Sweden	8.00%		
Spain	8.00%		
Portugal	8.00%		
Greece	8.00%		
Switzerland	8.00%		
Australia	8.00%		
Hong Kong	8.00%		
Malaysia	8.00%		
New Zealand	8.00%		
Saudi Arabia	8.00%		
Singapore	8.00%		

#### Bond Yields

Country	Rate	1 month	3 months
UK	10.00%		
Germany	8.75%		
France	8.00%		
Italy	10.00%		
Japan	5.00%		
ECU	8.00%		
Belgium	8.00%		
Netherlands	8.00%		
Denmark	8.00%		
Sweden	8.00%		
Spain	8.00%		
Portugal	8.00%		
Greece	8.00%		
Switzerland	8.00%		
Australia	8.00%		
Hong Kong	8.00%		
Malaysia	8.00%		
New Zealand	8.00%		
Saudi Arabia	8.00%		
Singapore	8.00%		

#### Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	1 month	3 months
UK	10.00%		
Germany	8.75%		
France	8.00%		
Italy	10.00%		
Japan	5.00%		
ECU	8.00%		
Belgium	8.00%		
Netherlands	8.00%		
Denmark	8.00%		
Sweden	8.00%		
Spain	8.00%		
Portugal	8.00%		
Greece	8.00%		
Switzerland	8.00%		
Australia	8.00%		
Hong Kong	8.00%		
Malaysia	8.00%		
New Zealand	8.00%		
Saudi Arabia	8.00%		
Singapore	8.00%		

#### Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	1 month	3 months
UK	10.00%		
Germany	8.75%		
France	8.00%		
Italy	10.00%		
Japan	5.00%		
ECU	8.00%		
Belgium	8.00%		
Netherlands	8.00%		
Denmark	8.00%		
Sweden	8.00%		
Spain	8.00%		
Portugal	8.00%		
Greece	8.00%		
Switzerland	8.00%		
Australia	8.00%		
Hong Kong	8.00%		
Malaysia	8.00%		
New Zealand	8.00%		
Saudi Arabia	8.00%		
Singapore	8.00%		

#### Commodity Prices

Commodity	Price	1 month	3 months
Oil	10.00%		
Gold	8.75%		
Silver	8.00%		
Copper	10.00%		
Aluminum	5.00%		
Iron Ore	8.00%		
Wheat	8.00%		
Corn	8.00%		
Soybeans	8.00%		
Cotton	8.00%		
Wool	8.00%		
Rubber	8.00%		
Nickel	8.00%		
Zinc	8.00%		
Lead	8.00%		
Platinum	8.00%		
Palladium	8.00%		
Rhodium	8.00%		
Vanadium	8.00%		
Chromium	8.00%		
Manganese	8.00%		
Titanium	8.00%		
Zirconium	8.00%		
Antimony	8.00%		
As	8.00%		
Bi	8.00%		
Co	8.00%		
Cr	8.00%		
Cu	8.00%		
Fe	8.00%		
Mo	8.00%		
Ni	8.00%		
Pb	8.00%		
Sn	8.00%		
Ta	8.00%		
Ti	8.00%		
U	8.00%		
V	8.00%		
W	8.00%		
Zn	8.00%		

#### Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	Price	1 month	3 months
UK	10.00%		
Germany	8.75%		
France	8.00%		
Italy	10.00%		
Japan	5.00%		
ECU	8.00%		
Belgium	8.00%		
Netherlands	8.00%		
Denmark	8.00%		
Sweden	8.00%		
Spain	8.00%		
Portugal	8.00%		
Greece	8.00%		
Switzerland	8.00%		
Australia	8.00%		
Hong Kong	8.00%		
Malaysia	8.00%		
New Zealand	8.00%		
Saudi Arabia	8.00%		
Singapore	8.00%		

#### Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Price	1 month	3 months
Oil	10.00%		
Gold	8.75%		
Silver	8.00%		
Copper	10.00%		
Aluminum	5.00%		
Iron Ore	8.00%		
Wheat	8.00%		
Corn	8.00%		
Soybeans	8.00%		
Cotton	8.00%		
Wool	8.00%		
Rubber	8.00%		
Nickel	8.00%		
Zinc	8.00%		
Lead	8.00%		
Platinum	8.00%		
Palladium	8.00%		
Rhodium	8.00%		
Vanadium	8.00%		
Chromium	8.00%		
Manganese	8.00%		
Titanium	8.00%		
Zirconium	8.00%		
Antimony	8.00%		
As	8.00%		
Bi	8.00%		
Co	8.00%		
Cr	8.00%		
Cu	8.00%		
Fe	8.00%		
Mo	8.00%		
Ni	8.00%		
Pb	8.00%		
Sn	8.00%		
Ta	8.00%		
Ti	8.00%		
U	8.00%		
V	8.00%		
W	8.00%		
Zn	8.00%		

#### Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Option	Price	1 month	3 months
Oil	10.00%		
Gold	8.75%		
Silver	8.00%		
Copper	10.00%		
Aluminum	5.00%		
Iron Ore	8.00%		
Wheat	8.00%		
Corn	8.00%		
Soybeans	8.00%		
Cotton	8.00%		
Wool	8.00%		
Rubber	8.00%		
Nickel	8.00%		
Zinc	8.00%		
Lead	8.00%		
Platinum	8.00%		
Palladium	8.00%		
Rhodium	8.00%		
Vanadium	8.00%		
Chromium	8.00%		
Manganese	8.00%		
Titanium	8.00%		
Zirconium	8.00%		
Antimony	8.00%		
As	8.00%		
Bi	8.00%		
Co	8.00%		
Cr	8.00%		
Cu	8.00%		
Fe	8.00%		
Mo	8.00%		
Ni	8.00%		
Pb	8.00%		
Sn	8.00%		
Ta	8.00%		
Ti	8.00%		
U	8.00%		
V	8.00%		
W	8.00%		
Zn	8.00%		

#### Commodity Indices

Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock
04/02/08	04/02/08	0.91	Dividends
04/01/08	03/01/02	0.30	(Accum Units)
02/08/08	03/01/02	0.30	Expense Income
01/04/04	01/04/02	0.00	(Accum Units)
01/04/04	01/04/02	0.50	(Accum Units) & General
03/07/97	03/08/84	0.21	(Accum Units)
03/08/90	03/08/84	0.71	Shareholder Dividend
03/08/90	03/08/84	0.71	(Accum Units)
04/02/02	05/04/02	0.42	Extra Yield
04/02/02	05/04/02	0.42	(Accum Units)
04/02/02	05/04/02	0.42	(Accum Units)
05/02/92	03/07/91	0.75	(Accum Units)
05/02/92	03/07/91	0.75	Hand of Int. Tax
08/01/04	07/20/00	0.47	(General Units)
Management's List			(Accum Units)
Brentwood, Texas			Oil Income
05/03/03			(General Units)
05/03/03			05/03/03



# Carson breaks free of Oaks ban

## Racing

CHRIS CORRIGAN

Willie Carson's Epsom gamble paid off yesterday and he can now ride in the Oaks. In what may well be his final Oaks, Carson was riding the five-year-old gelding against a five-day ban which would have ruled him out of the filly's Classic on the first day of the three-day Derby meeting.

Had Carson's appeal failed the Irish stewards could have extended the ban—forcing him to miss the Derby too. But a hearing Carson emerged from yesterday's hearing saying: "The stewards have been very kind to me."

The ban had been imposed for wearing an unapproved helmet during his Irish 1,000

Guineas victory on Matiya last Saturday.

Carson is now free to ride the John Dunlop-trained Bini Salsahil in the Oaks. In fact, he can resume riding on Tuesday at the end of a seven-day ban awarded by the Lingfield stewards, following his riding of Kamari at the Surrey track on 18 May.

Before returning from Ireland the jockey explained: "I wore the wrong helmet by mistake, it was not deliberate that the incorrect one was packed in my bag. I was worrying about other things on the day."

Carson once more gave a broad hint that retirement from the saddle could be this year: "I am very excited. I can now look forward to the Oaks which might be my last Oaks. Now I'll be asking Mr Dunlop how the filly's going."

Carson gave evidence at the appeal as did Dr Walter Halley, who reported Carson for wearing the unapproved headgear after seeing it on a table in the Curragh weighing room when Matiya's win. John Harvey, the

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: What's To Say (Stratford 8.20)  
NB: Goodwood Rocket (Bath 9.05)

clerk of the scales also appeared before the hearing. Afterwards, a grim-faced Dr Halley refused to comment as he left the Irish Turf Club and got into his car.

Phil Lafferty, the stewards' secretary, emerged with the comment: "gloriously in defeat"

—believed to be a reference to the technical nature of the verdict.

Other officials of the Turf Club refused to comment on the verdict but they will look long and hard at the embarrassing decision and the definition of the offence referring to skull caps in the Racing Calendar.

In their official announcement of the verdict, the stewards said they were satisfied that Carson had ridden in a skull cap with a lesser specification than that currently required under the rules.

But they noted that: "the technical specifications for an approved skull cap were inaccurately defined in the notice to all trainers and riders regarding skull caps in the Irish Racing Calendar of March 7 1996."

The officials warned Carson to be more careful in the future

to ensure that he meets the standard of equipment specified by the Club and to keep himself acquainted with changes to the rules and regulations.

The Scotsman was represented by Co Kildare solicitor Andrew Coonan. Turf Club officials would have noted that the rider was also accompanied by Angus Gold, racing manager to Matiya's owner Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum.

Carson left the controversial well-worn helmet he used last Saturday behind him. "I've left it here because I certainly don't need it anymore. Somebody might get something from it at a celebrity auction or the like."

The French Group One winning filly Luna Wells is virtually certain to stay at home and contest the Prix de Diane on Sunday week rather than in the Oaks at Epsom two days



Carson: suspension lifted

earlier. Luna Wells had come in for support in the Oaks ante-post market since giving Andre Fabre a fifth consecutive win in the Prix Saint-Alary—in which she beat her stablemate Miss Tahiti a length and a half—at Longchamp earlier this month.

## Baroque heads for Chantilly

High Baroque, Peter Chapple-Hyam's unbeaten Chester Vase winner, was supplemented yesterday for Sunday's Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) at a cost of 250,000 francs (£32,958).

Chapple-Hyam is likely to be three-unbeaten at Chantilly because he also plans to run Assur Place (Pat Eddery) and Polaris Flight (Michael Kinnane). John Reid rides High Baroque.

Godolphin's Don Michelletti (Dettori) was also supplemented for the race, which will now have a maximum field of 15. French-trained Loup Solitaire has been pulled out because of back problems.

## Flower shows his true Colour

The Brighton stewards called in local trainer Mark Flower after his Colour Counsellor won the selling handicap by three lengths at the track yesterday. The grey started at 20-1 and paid more than 30-1 on the tote.

The stewards asked for an explanation for the improvement in form of Colour Counsellor who had finished 12th of 13 in his previous race—an amateur riders' event at Lingfield. Flower said later: "He had

everything his way today which suited him. If he gets a squeeze or a bump he tends to back pedal and is not very brave. Also he has not run over this trip before and that might have had something to do with it."

## CATTERICK

**2.20 Robec City 2.50 Miss Zanzibar 3.20 Goret-Ski 3.50 Flashy's Son 4.20 Lionel Edwards 4.50 Sn With The Wind**

**GOING:** Good (good to firm in places).  
**STALLS:** 6.4 in 47—bushes 6.7 in 47—outside.  
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None usually best for 5f.  
**Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-distance runners.**

**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS:** Limerick Princess (1:30) won at Haydock last Friday. Long-Distance Runners: Time Class (4:20) & Chalk's Secret (4:11) won 250 metres from 8 furlongs at Chalk's Secret in South Hams.

## 2.20 STAPLETON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2YO fillies 5f

1. CASUAL OUTRAGE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. DORIS 3. HEDDIE (3) D Mummy 4.4.20. 4. LITTLE BLUE (4) D Mummy 4.4.20. 5. MISS HEDDIE (5) D Mummy 4.4.20. 6. MISS HEDDIE (6) D Mummy 4.4.20. 7. MISS HEDDIE (7) D Mummy 4.4.20. 8. MISS HEDDIE (8) D Mummy 4.4.20. 9. MISS HEDDIE (9) D Mummy 4.4.20. 10. MISS HEDDIE (10) D Mummy 4.4.20.

## 2.50 CROFT SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS:** Limerick Princess (1:30) won at Haydock last Friday. Long-Distance Runners: Time Class (4:20) & Chalk's Secret (4:11) won 250 metres from 8 furlongs at Chalk's Secret in South Hams.

## BATH

**6.35 Fion 7.05 Summer Queen 7.35 Flock 8.05 Miletian Return 8.35 Don Bosto 9.05 Sistract**

**GOING:** Good.  
**STALLS:** 6.4 in 47—bushes 6.7 in 47—outside.  
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None usually best for 5f.  
**Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-distance runners.**

## 6.35 RATING RELATED MAIDEN (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO fillies 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 7.05 SWANWICK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 2YO fillies 5f

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 7.35 FRIDAY EVENING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 2m 1f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 8.05 HAYMAKING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,500 added 3YO 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 8.35 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 3.20 WENSLEY SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 5f

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 3.50 PEN HILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 4.20 GRINTEAN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 6f

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 4.50 MUKER RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 5.05 HAYMAKING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,500 added 3YO 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 5.35 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 6.05 END OF THE DAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 6.35 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 7.05 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 7.35 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 3.20 WENSLEY SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 5f

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 3.50 PEN HILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 4.20 GRINTEAN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 6f

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 4.50 MUKER RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 5.05 HAYMAKING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,500 added 3YO 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 5.35 HAWKSWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,500 added 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy 4.4.20. 4. 00-050 HEDDIE (5) C Mummy 4.4.20. 5. 00-050 HEDDIE (6) C Mummy 4.4.20. 6. 00-050 HEDDIE (7) C Mummy 4.4.20. 7. 00-050 HEDDIE (8) C Mummy 4.4.20. 8. 00-050 HEDDIE (9) C Mummy 4.4.20. 9. 00-050 HEDDIE (10) C Mummy 4.4.20. 10. 00-050 HEDDIE (11) C Mummy 4.4.20.

## 6.05 END OF THE DAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 1m 2f 3yds

1. 00-050 HEDDIE (2) C Mummy 4.4.20. 2. 00-050 HEDDIE (3) C Mummy 4.4.20. 3. 00-050 HEDDIE (4) C Mummy



# sport

## Ridgeon dedicated to the sport he loves

Tomorrow will be the third anniversary of the end of Jon Ridgeon's career. He will mark it by running the 400 metres hurdles at the European Cup final in Madrid.

When Ridgeon snapped his Achilles tendon in Bratislava, Slovakia, three years ago while making a second comeback from injury, medical experts said he would never run again. At 26, the athlete who had had it all going for him — blond good looks, Cambridge degree, world hurdles silver medal while still in his teens — had to endure it all going away from him.

Now, however, Ridgeon is about to win his first international vest since 1992 after completing comeback No 3 — and it was no coincidence that his choice of venue for a final preparation should have been last Wednesday's meeting in Bratislava.

"I had some absolutely horrendous memories of Bratislava," he said. "There were some ghosts to lay."

For Ridgeon, an intensely competitive high achiever, the frustration of the past few years has been immense. He channelled his energies into a media career which involved him interviewing athletes for satellite TV, but the sense of being cut off in his prime never left him.

It was only after another operation on his Achilles ten-

**Mike Rowbottom talks to a British prospect for tomorrow's European Cup hurdles who, three years ago, was told by doctors he would never run again**

don last year — his fourth in all on either foot — that he began to think the unthinkable once again. The surgery, which was simply intended to repair him sufficiently for recreational activities such as tennis, restored sufficient movement for him to contemplate hurdling again.

Six months ago he resigned from his media

jobs and dedicated himself, heart and soul, to getting fit once more, training in America, South Africa and Australia.

At last Saturday's Welsh Games, Ridgeon marked his first race on British soil for four years with an exuberant victory in blustery conditions.

When he saw that he had broken 50 seconds — recording 49.87 — he grasped the air in front of him for joy. "I love athletics more than anything else," he said afterwards, and you could see the truth of it.

In the overall scheme of things, Ridgeon should have been equally delighted to have

come through Bratislava unscathed. But he was less than thrilled at having finished sixth in 50.12sec, albeit on a windy, rainy night.

That reaction, though, indicates the extent of his recovery. Ridgeon is no longer always looking at the overall scheme of things, or pinching himself to see if he is really on the track. He has crossed over into becoming a competitive athlete once again.

"I have given up a lot. I have gone from a safe world to an uncertain one."

Instead of being elated at having finished a grand prix meeting again, I was disappointed because I had wanted to run 49.5sec," he said. "Now I am looking for a fast time on Saturday to take me on to the Olympic trials. The focus quickly changes when you are back in athletics."

Not that Ridgeon has completely lost the sense of satisfaction at having re-entered the world from which he had been exiled.

"It did occur to me when I was putting on my tracksuit two

or three minutes after the race that this was a much better situation than it had been three years ago," he said.

"I have given up a lot to make this comeback. I have gone from quite a safe world to quite an uncertain one. But, when I was sitting on the plane today, I couldn't help thinking that all my old colleagues would probably be in office."

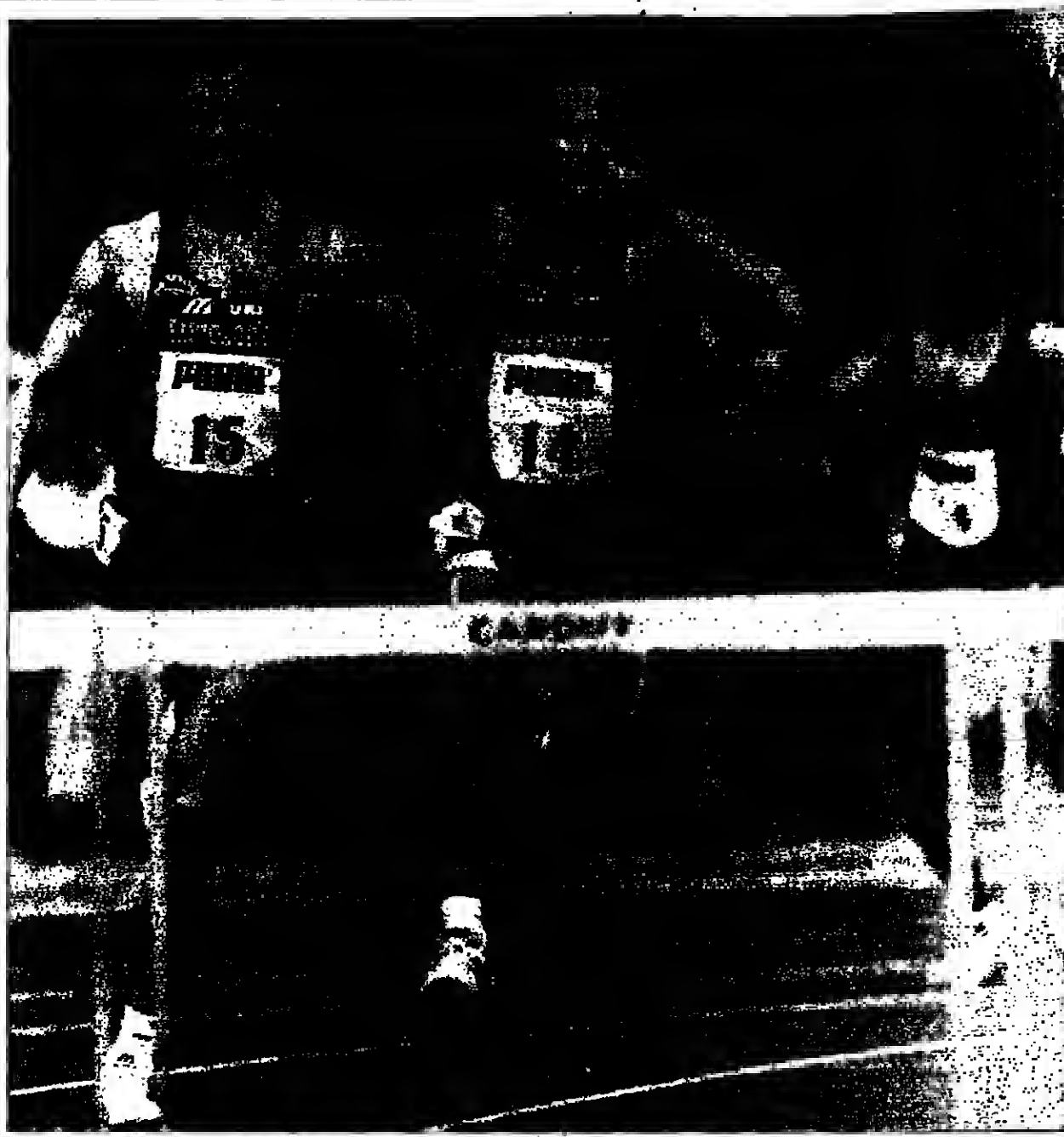
His savings have been almost exhausted by funding his foreign training in recent months, but Ridgeon is on the brink of earning money once again as a jobbing athlete.

In his training diary, Ridgeon has inscribed a New Year's resolution that he will not get stressed about competing, but will simply enjoy it when it happens.

"I have trained for six months," he said. "I have done everything I can. If I do make the Olympic Games eight years after a different event, it would be a dream come true. It would mean so much to me. But, let's not kid ourselves. I'm still not world class."

Tomorrow, however, in the first event of the weekend, he can take another big step towards that ambition.

"Everything is going perfectly," he said after his Welsh Games run — and resisted the impulse to touch wood. "There is no pressure on me," he added with a laugh. "I'm retired."



Back on track: Jon Ridgeon's win at the Welsh Games was his first race in Britain for four years. Photograph: Ailsop

## Déjà vu grips Gloucestershire

### Cricket

MIKE CAREY  
reports from Old Trafford  
Glouce 157-5 v Lancashire

A week can seem a long time in county cricket, especially when it is spent at the same venue. Thus Gloucestershire, embarking on the second phase of their seven-day stint here, probably had a dreadful feeling of déjà vu when their batting threatened to disintegrate again yesterday.

As Lady Bracknell might put it, it is one thing to throw wickets away in a limited-over contest; it is quite another to do so in the Championship, especially when winning the toss had given Gloucestershire valuable first use of the pitch recently used for the Testco Trophy.

That meant it was already two

days old. It seemed to have two paces — slow and even slower — and, needing to occupy it for as long as possible, Gloucestershire could have done without the catalogue of errors that launched their innings after 37 overs had been lost to overnight rain.

On a more humid day than most this season, the pitch might also have greened up a shade under the covers, too. With the new ball in his hand and the breeze behind him, Glen Chapple bowled testily well, even if his low decision against Tony Wright looked marginal to the distant eye.

Encouraged by that, he howled Robert Cunniff off an inside edge, helped by the batsman's minimal footwork. When the batsman was caught behind trying not to play and then Hancock mistimed the speculative first ball of Peter Martin's

second spell to cover, Gloucestershire found themselves at 35 for 4.

It could have been worse. Martin, conceding just nine runs from 10 overs, howled around off-stump and beyond, thought he had Andrew Symonds caught behind from a rare legside delivery.

Then, before he had reached 30, Mark Alleyne was almost spectacularly caught off the meat of the bat at short leg by John Crawley, then missed in the slips. By half, half-volleys had started to materialise and both batsmen dealt severely with them.

All was comparatively well until Symonds chased a short, wide ball from Chapple and was astutely caught, one-handed, by Warren Hegg. Symonds is still searching for his first Championship half-century of the season.

## Thorpe's power puts Surrey in command

### Cricket

MIKE CAREY  
reports from Old Trafford  
Surrey 259-5 v Lancashire

Graham Thorpe maintained his magnificent run of form with an unbeaten 158 as he steered Surrey to an imposing 382 for 7 against Derbyshire at The Oval yesterday.

It was his third first-class century in his last six innings and the 22nd of his career. He shared in a stand of 151 for the fifth wicket with Adam Holoake, but with the exception of Thorpe it seemed that the rest of the Surrey batting could only do things by halves, or not at all.

Mark Butcher (53), the captain Alec Stewart (52) and the in-form Holoake (72) all failed to turn their fifties into hundreds as the Derbyshire attack — handicapped by the temporary loss of Dominic Cork with a

muscle spasm in his back —

toiled away.

Graeme Hick hit one of the slowest centuries of his career — but he rescued Worcestershire from a shaky start, at 6 for 2, in their match against Hampshire at New Road. Hick took five-and-a-half hours and 79 overs to compile the 87th first-class ton of his career, including 15 fours, as Worcestershire reached 254 for 5.

Durham's overseas player, Sherwin Campbell, who has not had the best of starts to the season, finally came good against Nottinghamshire at Trent bridge, when he hit 118. However the West Indian opener still managed to be upstaged by his team-mate Darren Blenkinsop, who hit 130 — his second century of the week — as Durham notched up 333 for 5.

## Hussain stakes England claim

India 320-8 dec & 223-6 dec  
Essex 269-5 dec & 207-6  
Match drawn

Nasser Hussain dropped a late hint for inclusion in England's Test squad, which is named at the weekend, by producing his best form of the season. His 85 against India at Chelmsford was the highlight of the final day, which ended with Essex setting for a draw on 207 for 6 in pursuit of a target of 275 in 51 overs.

While Hussain was at the crease, Essex always nursed hopes of collecting the £7,500 cheque on offer by sponsors Tetley for any county beating the tourists. But once he was sixth out, with 79 still required from 10 overs, the shutters were put up by Ashley Cowan and Paul Grayson.

Hussain, nimble of foot and

quick to seize upon any loose delivery, eventually fell when he tried to sweep once too often against leg-spinner Narendra Harwani and was bowled.

His 109-ball effort included nine fours but whether it will be good enough to put him in line for a Test recall, after an absence of three years, remains to be seen. But at least Hussain can content himself with the knowledge that his latest effort was his highest of the summer to date, and his most convincing.

Earlier, India carried their second innings to 223 for 6 before declaring, the opener Ajay Jadeja leading the way with nine fours and three sixes in a highly entertaining 87. He was to become a victim of the left-arm spinner John Chiles, the veteran 44-year-old finishing with 4 for 99.

Meanwhile, Navjot Sidhu,

who became the first Indian cricketer to walk out of a touring team in 64 years of Test cricket, has returned to New Delhi from England.

"I had enough and couldn't take any more," Sidhu told reporters. "I'm sorry but I can't say anything more at this stage. I'll issue a public statement after talking to the cricket board chief."

Sidhu, 32, quit the tour of England on Monday and announced his immediate retirement from Test cricket after he was dropped from the side for the third one-day international, which India lost by four wickets at Old Trafford.

Lala Amarnath, the former Indian Test captain, demanded an inquiry into the events leading to Sidhu's walkout. Amarnath said the incident needed to be investigated by an independent authority.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

<b>Britannic Assurance</b>	<b>Middlesex v Yorkshire</b>	<b>North</b>
<b>County Cheshire</b>	<b>Nottingham v Kent</b>	<b>Northampton</b>
<b>Derbyshire</b>	<b>Leeds</b>	<b>Northants</b>
<b>Essex</b>	<b>LONDON: Middlesex (Yorkshire) have scored 222 for 5 against Nottingham (2).</b>	<b>Northumberland</b>
<b>Hampshire</b>	<b>Gloucestershire - Fleet finished</b>	<b>Nottingham</b>
<b>Hants</b>	<b>P. H. Mole (4) &amp; Bailey (4) hit</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Herefordshire</b>	<b>P. H. Mole (4) &amp; Bailey (4) hit</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Kent v Sussex</b>	<b>C. Hammond &amp; Bailey (4) hit</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Sussex won 102/1</b>	<b>M. R. Hammond &amp; Bailey (4) hit</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>TURKINGHAM TOWNS: Kent (Sussex) by four</b>	<b>D. Carr hit</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>W. H.</b>		



Photograph: Jeff Widener/Allsport

ly (both Celtic); Spencer (Chelsea). McCaist (Rangers). Substitutes: Burley (Chelsea) for Hendry, h-t; Joss (Coventry) for Spencer. 69: Galt-licher (Blackburn) for McCaist, 61.  
Referee: B. Dominiczak (USA).

# For Resilient Langer

Bernhard Langer bounced back from failing to make his first half-way cut in 69 European starts to move within one stroke of the first-round lead in the Deutsche Bank Open in Hamburg yesterday.

He trails the New Zealander Frank Nobilo, who shot a seven-under-par 65 to head a strong field that includes Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam and Seve Ballesteros.

Langer was left in joint sec-

just feel at home," he said. "I love my own country. I like the food. I like the support I get. Perhaps it gives me greater motivation."

Nobilo, who, like Langer, started at the 10th hole, had no doubts as to why he played so well. "It was the sun on my back. It is as simple as that," he said.

"I played the first nine holes in a drizzle and got only one birdie. But then the sun came out and for the first time in three weeks I could throw off my water-

Langer is attempting to win a 14th European Tour event in Germany, and set a target which only Nohlio could overtake. On a day that started with drizzle and ended in sunshine, he had seven birdies and only one bogey on his card.

Langer's performance only served to emphasise his resilience. Last Saturday he failed to make the cut at the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth – a failure which ended his record run of playing in all four rounds of European Tour tournaments.

Yesterday, though, the winner of five German Opens, two German Masters and the present German Open clearly got a second chance (on.cen.ter.sport).  
Bott, Westwood, Sandelin, Albee, Rojahn and Nyman all then came home in turn to challenge Nohlio but not to catch him on a day when level par was a rare sight.

Westwood, on 72, could manage only that while Montgomerie shot 71 and Ballesteros 70. All three will have to play well today if they are to make the cut which could be as low as two under par.

Sheffield golfer Mark Roe has withdrawn from the US Open in Oakland Hills next month to concentrate on rebuilding his European career. Roe, 35, has missed the half-way cut in seven of his 10 European appearances this year and is worried about his future.

**THE INDEPENDENT  
CRICKET  
LINES**

International  
Tour Line

Durham	0891 525 371
Essex	0891 525 372
Glamorgan	0891 525 373
Gloucs.	0891 525 374
Hampshire	0891 525 375
Kent	0891 525 376
Lancashire	0891 525 377
Leics.	0891 525 378
Middlesex	0891 525 379
Northants	0891 525 380
Notts.	0891 525 381
Somerset	0891 525 382
Surrey	0891 525 383
Sussex	0891 525 384
Warwicks.	0891 525 385
Worcs.	0891 525 386
Yorkshire	0891 525 387

0891 calls cost 20p. 0891 calls from 0114 241 1411

• • •



## SPORT



Jürgen Klinsmann, off the field, is the model of how you would want a professional footballer to behave. Modest, educated and polite, he will probably be the most prominent continental at Euro '96.

In the Independent's guide to Euro 96 on Monday, Guy Hodgson states a German ambassador.

## Muster wary of the fast set

### Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS  
reports from Paris

Having advanced to the third round of the French Open without a blip yesterday, beating the Frenchman Gerard Pique, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0, Thomas Muster generously offered encouragement to those of his challengers whose inclination is to attack rather than chisel points from the baseline.

The clay courts at Stade Roland Garros are fast enough not to disadvantage serve-volleyers, Muster argued, estimating the pace to be roughly the same as the rubberised concrete at the United States Open. "The difference is that here you have to slide and keep your balance."

In particular, Muster had Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Richard Krajicek and Michael Stich in mind, but the unseeded Stefan Edberg underlined the point in spectacular style with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 win against Carlos Moya. The 20-year-old from Barcelona is the only player to have beaten Muster on clay this year.

Edberg's win guaranteed the 30-year-old Swede a special trip down memory lane to mark this latest stop on his retirement tour. He now plays the fourth-seeded Michael Chang, who defeated him in the 1989 final. Edberg, who led Chang by a service break in the fifth set, has often rued the opportunity he missed to strike a telling blow for attacking play.

Yesterday, Chang, the game's great retriever, had to run long and hard to out-rally Australia's Richard Fromberg, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Muster made one proviso in his prognosis: the courts will only remain equitable if the weather stays as warm and sunny as it has been for the past three days. A glance at the forecast suggests sluggish conditions ahead.

Not that much that happens here from now on will concern Greg Rusedski, whose thoughts have already switched from clay

to the slick grass of his adopted England and the groundwork necessary to tune his big-serving game for Wimbledon.

Rusedski was eliminated by Stich in the second round on the compact Court No 1 here yesterday, 6-3, 7-5, 6-3, and at the same time was given a lesson by the No 15 seed in how to adapt a style good enough to triumph at Wimbledon, as the German did in 1991.

Stich was only under threat from Rusedski during the second set, in which the Briton had two break points in the third game and a couple more in the ninth. In each case, Stich served his way out of trouble.

The German's sharpness was surprising considering he nearly did not enter the event in view of his lack of match practice since a foot operation in March.

Stich, whose 18 singles titles include clay-court victories in Hamburg and Stuttgart, sympathised with Rusedski. "Greg knows that his serve makes him a dangerous player on fast surfaces, but he's not sure how to play on clay," he said.

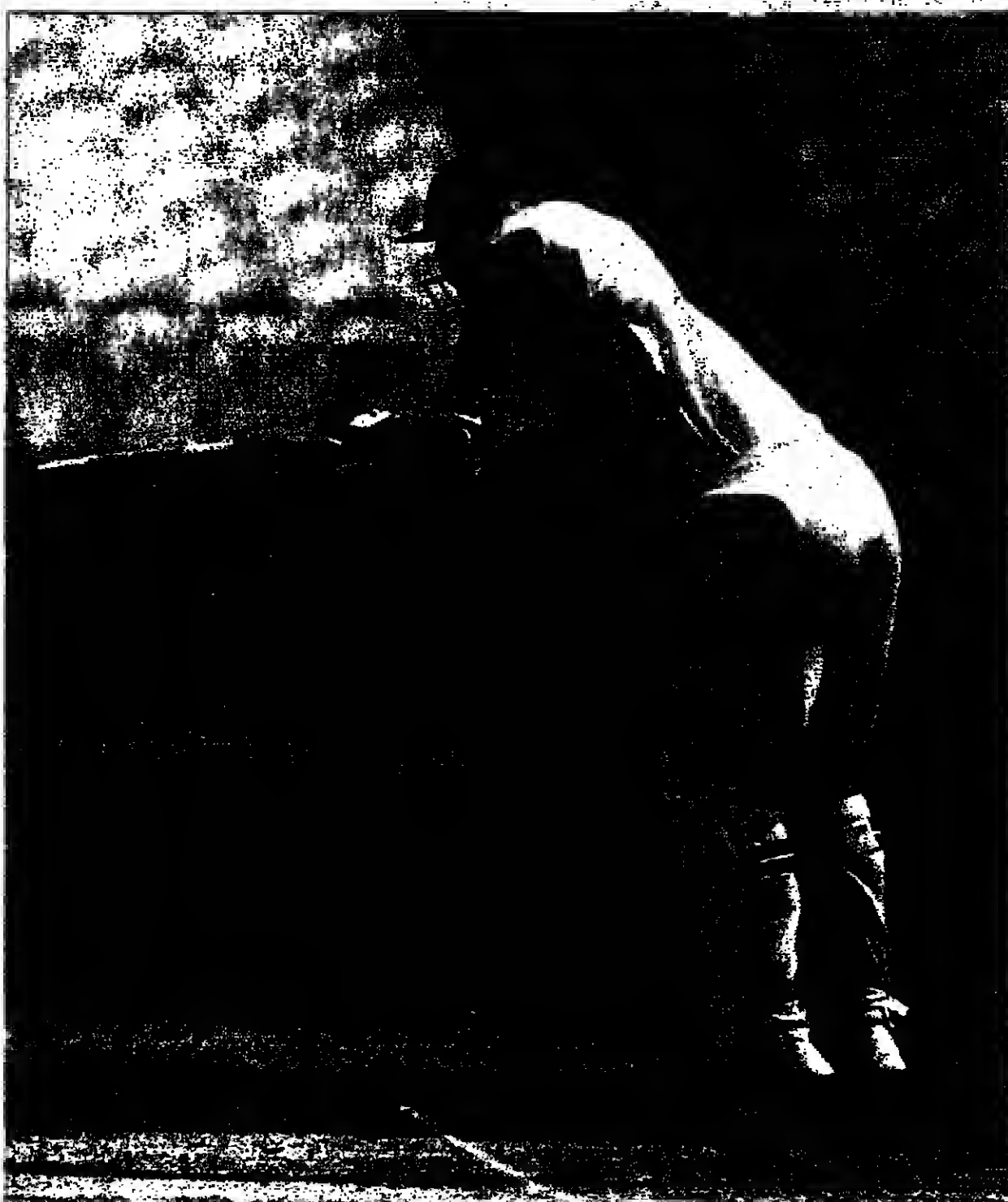
"That is very difficult for him," Stich added. "I know how it is, because a couple of years back I was relying on my service much more than I do right now. What Greg did today, staying back a lot, is just not going to help him on clay. On other surfaces, he just serves and volleys all the time. That's his game. That's good. I think he can improve, and there's still a lot of work to do. I think he can figure it out himself. I don't have to tell him what to do or what not to do."

Rusedski is receiving plenty of advice from his new coach, Brian Teacher, who will continue to work with him through Wimbledon. "Brian has faced up my backhand and he thinks that after two or three weeks of work everything is going to solidify. I'm going to jump on the grass courts at Queen's as fast as I can."

Stich Graf continued her defence of the women's title with a 6-2, 6-2 win against Australia's Nicole Pietrangeli. Graf has conceded only nine games in her two matches.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Middlesex find form at last but Warwickshire made to work hard



Century-maker: Middlesex's Mark Ramprakash fends off a delivery from Craig White at Lord's. Photograph: Peter Jay

## Ramprakash takes great leap forward

### HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Lord's  
Middlesex 322-5  
v Yorkshire

Mark Ramprakash took a big step forward in his personal rehabilitation course after his unhappy winter's tour of South Africa when he made a convincing 134 on a glorious day against Yorkshire.

He was not in quite the brilliant form of late last summer when hundreds flowed from his bat against all-comers in Championship cricket, but it will have made him feel much better.

Ramprakash is only 26 with any amount of cricket left in him, and all he can realistically do now is to put his head down, work hard at his game and fill his bag with as many hundreds as he can. This will rebuild his confidence and maybe help him to eradicate the faults which have made Test cricket such a problem for him.

His innings was the centrepiece of an entertaining day's play as Middlesex tried collectively to put their dismal early-season batting form behind them. They were helped by a pitch where the ball came on to the bat, and there was also some bounce and an encouragingly close boundary on the Grandstand side of the ground. It was one of the pitches relaid in the autumn of 1992.

Yorkshire bowled well before lunch, when there was still a touch of moisture in the surface, but without much luck. Paul

Weekes soon played forward to Peter Hartley with his bat away from his pad and was caught behind. Jason Harrison took his place and led a charmed life outside the off-stump, especially off the back foot. One lost count of the number of times he played and missed.

Jason Pooley played most of the early strokes before mysteriously leaving alone a ball from Darren Gough which hit the middle of his off-stump. One could sense the uncertainty within Ramprakash early on, almost as if he did not fully trust himself to go through with his strokes. Then, driving and cutting and timing the ball nicely off his legs, he began to find the boundary and each four did him a power of good.

Harrison produced one of his lovely strokes of his own in amongst long periods of defence, before edging a lifeline from Craig White to the wicketkeeper. He has plenty of work to do on and outside the off-stump. Mike Gatting looked in good form and pulled and cut White for three fours in an over before playing back to Chris Silverwood with little footwork and edging the ball into his stumps. Ramprakash's hundred came next from 182 balls when he played Silverwood off his toes through mid-wicket for his 17th four.

With his frighteningly awful stance, John Carr helped Ramprakash put on 83 before Ramprakash was bowled, probably off his pads, playing across the line of Hartley. Carr went on to pass 50 and, with Keith Brown, took Middlesex to 300.

## Umpire steps in to halt local difficulties

### MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Northampton  
Northamptonshire 314  
Warwickshire 34-2

Like any self-respecting soap opera this could run and run, with an undercurrent of aggression bordering on animosity. By Tuesday week, when they meet in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final, these little-chasing counties will have spent another claustrophobic five days in each other's company.

Potentially irksome days, too, on yesterday's evidence of

Stuart Pollock being warned for excessive short-pitched bowling to Mal Loye, and a heated exchange demanding the mediocrity powers of the umpires.

Trevor Jesty, who stood at the football end, said: "There was a bit of hot air and a lot of chat between the Warwickshire captain [Dermot Reeve] and the batsman [David Capel]. The wicketkeeper [Keith Piper] kept trying to join in and we [myself and Tony Clarkson] told him to keep out of it."

Pollock, Warwickshire's new overseas player from South Africa, was also aggrieved because two appeals for catches close to the wicket against Loye and Kevin Curran were rejected, rightly by Clarkson, the batsmen

being taken off the upper arm. The Reeve-Capel altercation must have convinced Jesty that the week can only improve, following the criticism of Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, of Jesty's leg-before decision that sent him on his not so merry way in the Benson and Hedges quarter-final, against Warwickshire on Tuesday. The day had begun with Jesty telephoning Lord's as a matter of procedure because the pitch started not dry as regulations stipulate, but damp through rain seeping under the covers. Reeve, never one to miss a chance, put in Northamptonshire.

All-Middlesex matches, while not so furious as Roses battles, still have the cutting edge of a scimitar. Last summer Alan Lamb, the Northamptonshire captain, described the Warwickshire game - which his team won by seven runs - as being "a little like war", with the rider of "that's the way Championship matches should be played".

Reeve, who also rated that game as the best in which he had played, achieved his third five-wicket return for Warwickshire this time, for 37 runs, while Northamptonshire produced half-century makers in Russell Warren, Capel and Curran.

Warren made 76, with a six and 12 fours from 141 balls, before his off-stump was torn out by an express delivery from Pollock. It was a curiously comprehensive dismissal for

someone who had batted for almost three hours. Between some now familiar Warwickshire histrionics, notably when Piper leapt into Reeve's arms after Tony Penberthy's dismissal, they fielded as champions should. Dominic Ostler held a sizzling one-handed slip catch to assist David Ripley in the presence of Graham Gooch, the England selector.

Gooch was doubtless eager to hear fitness reports about Nick Knight, the Warwickshire opener and strong England candidate, for the first Test against the tourists at Edgbaston next Thursday. Knight has a cracked left index finger but hopes to play in the Sunday match here.

The county's prompt arrival may bring an end to the maelstrom of the TCCB could still its own disciplinary action.

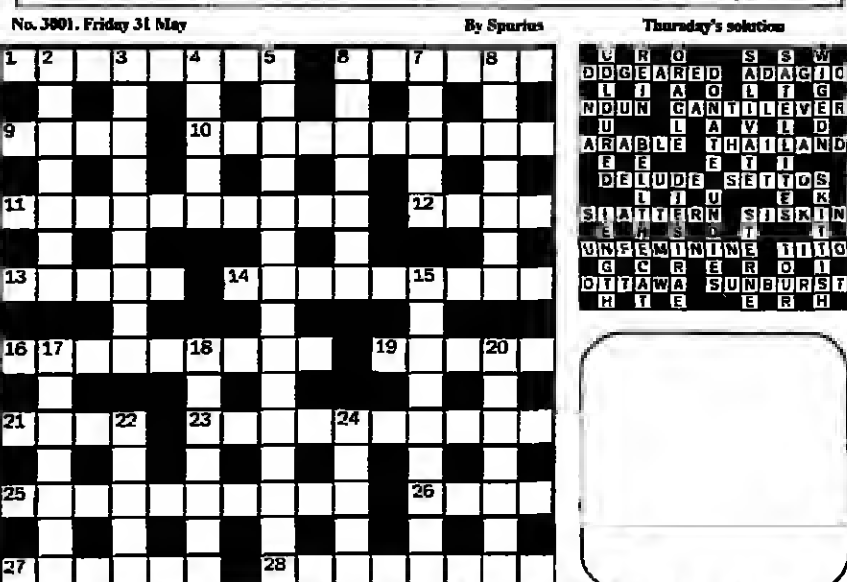
## Maynard fined by Glamorgan for outburst

Matthew Maynard has been fined an undisclosed amount and issued with a severe reprimand by Glamorgan's cricket committee in the wake of his comments after the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final defeat by Warwickshire on Tuesday.

The Glamorgan captain was reported as saying that he was unhappy with the umpiring and claimed his side had been "robbed" of victory. Maynard was adjudged lbw near the end of the game and his displeasure at the decision was evident.

The county's prompt arrival may bring an end to the maelstrom of the TCCB could still its own disciplinary action.

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- A house in Covent Garden? (8)
  - Wan-looking after setback, unwell, confined to home (6)
  - Heavy oil to some extent undervalued (4)
  - Tips on dealing with endless paperwork, up to a point (10)
  - Construction worker, first-rate chap to have on course (10)
  - Hard, consumed with malvolence (4)
  - Type of stone you'll get tea in? (5)
  - Home occupied by poor soul, shame to have demolished? (9)
  - Boredom evident retrospectively in what MP does to accommodate letter-writer? (9)
  - Car Irishman originally drove in the centre (5)
  - Second of Republicans incarcerated by Democrat judge (4)
  - Revival in religious education by reformed Cannes church (10)
  - Lecturer's intelligence primarily used in media role? (10)
  - Welshman's stand (4)
  - Office is quick, after initial lapse, to disclose information (6)
  - Submissive hearing (8)
  - Discover evidence of a hunter's activity (7)
  - Conservative features in place of knight in original suite (9)
  - Leucor left with space agency (5)
  - Onset of long winter night? (5,7,3)
  - Memphis paper indicating Pennsylvania insurance company's to accept liability, finally (7)
  - Doctor and general going to church (5)
  - Drive is occupied by truck. Provost-Marshal ordered up (7)
  - Golf tournament finished with no definite outcome (4-5)
  - Moss in the main going preponderantly unobserved (7)
  - Lodger administering arsenic to Scotsman? (5)
  - Material that's dry, containing a modicum of gabardine (5)

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## Tigers settle on Dwyer

### Rugby Union STEVE BALE

Leicester's search for a coaching director began with Bob Dwyer, the illustrious former coach of Australia, in March and ended with him yesterday when he was appointed to head up the Tigers' team for professional club rugby next season.

At the same time Ian Smith is to give up teaching at Uppingham School in order to become the full-time coach. Dwyer's appointment will begin in July when an inauspicious year in Paris as coach of Racing Club will have ended. This season - which in France culminates in tomorrow's champ-

ionship final between Toulouse and Brive - the unthinkable has happened with Racing being relegated from the 20-strong top division.

However, Dwyer, 55, brings to the English cup and league runners-up an impeccable pedigree from his international days. His total of nine years guiding Australia encompassed the 1991 World Cup triumph but once his team had been knocked out of last year's tournament by England his days with the Wallabies were numbered.

"In this new era for rugby, with its huge changes, it's clear Leicester must utilise every drop of expertise it can muster," Peter Wheeler, the club's chief

executive, said. "To that end we have traveled the world for the best." Indeed the travelling began even before Tony Russ's sacking as coaching director two months ago, when Dwyer was the first name to be associated with the sudden vacancy.

Dwyer, coach of the World XV who beat Leicester at Twickenham last month, emphasised yesterday his belief in the unadorned rugby played then rather than the more familiar, less mobile Tigers style he once described as an "abomination". His impenetrable verdict was that "the team are capable of playing whatever way they want to play. It's just the team decided they would play the way they did play."

### First seagulls and trawlers.

Now the resurrection. Eric Cantona has reacted to his omission from the French team for next month's European Championship with yet another burst of bizarre imagery.

"The Manchester United striker has failed to re-establish himself in the French side since being banned from the game for eight months last year after assaulting a Crystal Palace supporter. On his return he inspired United to the League and Cup double, but Andre Jacquet, the French coach, remained unimpressed and left out Cantona last week when he named his 22-man squad for the Championship."

"I think a lot of officials thought I was dead after the Crystal Palace case," Cantona said in an interview with the French weekly *Paris-Match*, which was published yesterday. "Since I was not completely dead, and since I even resurrected, they have done everything they could to make sure I died a second time. We'll see who dies in the end."

Cantona said he had accepted the decision "with serenity. Still, I thought my 45 caps and 20 goals for France could have been taken into consideration," he said.



"Since I was not completely dead and since I even resurrected, they have done everything they could to make sure I died a second time. We'll see who dies in the end." **Eric Cantona** on his exclusion from Euro '96



The Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain

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